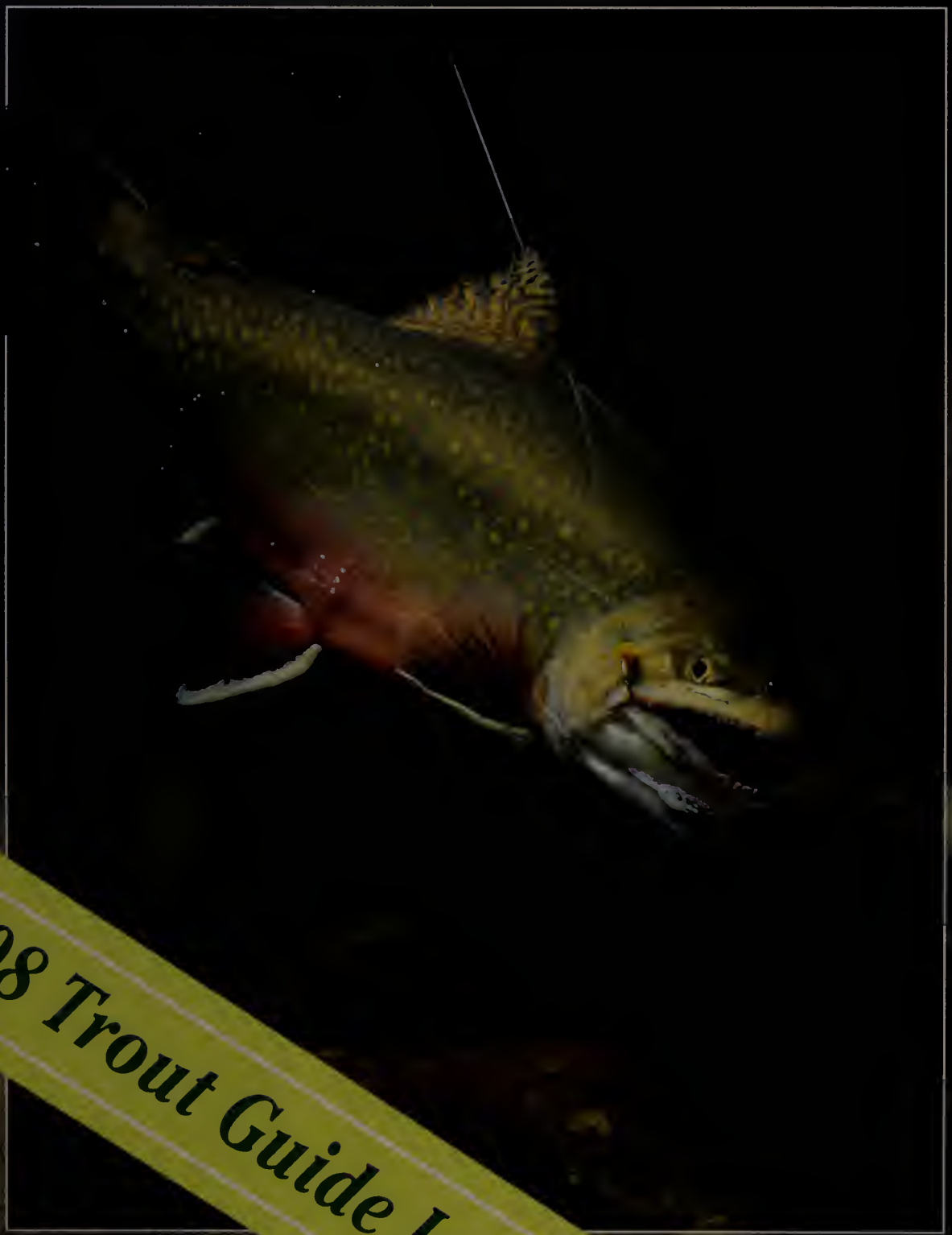
VIRGINIA WILDLIFE



1998 Trout Guide Inside

Director's Column

William L. Woodfin, Jr

Funding for the Future

Last month I reported to you about a serious funding issue facing our Department. In that Director's Column, I summarized why this problem exists and discussed the legislative subcommittee that has been working with us on this issue. I am pleased to report that we expect two legislative actions as a result of the subcommittee's work.

The subcommittee recognized that those who support wildlife contribute significantly to our economy. As a matter of fact, a recently released survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicates that approximately $2.1 billion dollars are spent annually in Virginia by those who enjoy wildlife. Approximately $600 million of these purchases are for equipment related to hunting, fishing and wildlife watching.

The subcommittee will recommend that a portion of the current sales tax paid on these purchases come to our Department. If this is approved by the legislature, it will generate approximately $12 million of needed revenue for wildlife programs and capital improvements. A second bill that the subcommittee will recommend is to give the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries the opportunity to adjust license fees within a Consumer Price Index, once every two years, not to exceed a cap of $1.00 per license per resident and $2.00 per license per nonresident. The purpose of this change is not to deal with revenue shortfalls, but to allow our licenses to have some small adjustments, based on inflationary changes.

As I indicated last month, the subcommittee, at its public hearing, heard over 50 organizations enthusiastically show support for the Department and its need for additional funding. Quite frankly, the success of this proposed legislation will rest with the support of you, our constituents.

We will be working very hard over the next few weeks to explain these proposals to all of our constituent groups. In order to help disseminate information on this funding procedure, we have established a funding information telephone line which is 1-804-367-0267, and an e-mail address which is funding@dgif.state.va.us. We also have information about our funding needs and proposals on our web site which can be accessed at http://www.state.va.us/~dgif/index.htm. In addition, we would like for all of our constituent groups to fully understand these proposals and why they are necessary. If you know of any group who would benefit from a presentation, please contact us.

Remember, Virginia is next to last among the southeastern states in per capita funding for all wildlife programs. The additional $12 million that is represented by the subcommittee's proposal will allow us not only to be competitive with our neighboring states, but also to continue the level of service that Virginians have come to expect. In addition, these revenues will allow us to invest much-needed dollars in our hatcheries and wildlife management areas. These improvements will be enjoyed by all of our citizens.

Since 1916, this Department has provided wildlife success stories. Due to the generosity of our sportsmen and sportswomen, we have seen a strong return of our whitetailed deer populations as well as the wild turkey. We have embarked on an aggressive quail management plan which will hopefully turn around the decline in the bobwhite quail. Because of our shad restoration program, we expect to see a return to our inland waters of the American shad. We have been pleased to be actively involved with our nongame species as well as our game species. We have seen the return of the bald eagle and osprey to many areas of the state, and have been active supporters of many programs such as the Eastern Shore Birding Festival.

Our educational programs have developed a better understanding of and appreciation for our wildlife resources and the recreational opportunities they provide. Our law enforcement officers have provided the opportunity for us all to enjoy our wildlife in a safe manner. Whether on our inland waters, our forests, or our urban areas, our game wardens have been there for our wildlife and our citizens.

Your Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has an 81-year history of providing quality wildlife programs. With your support for the proposed funding legislation, we look forward to providing even better services to our children and grandchildren as we enter the next century.

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

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George Allen, Governor

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VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

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Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources

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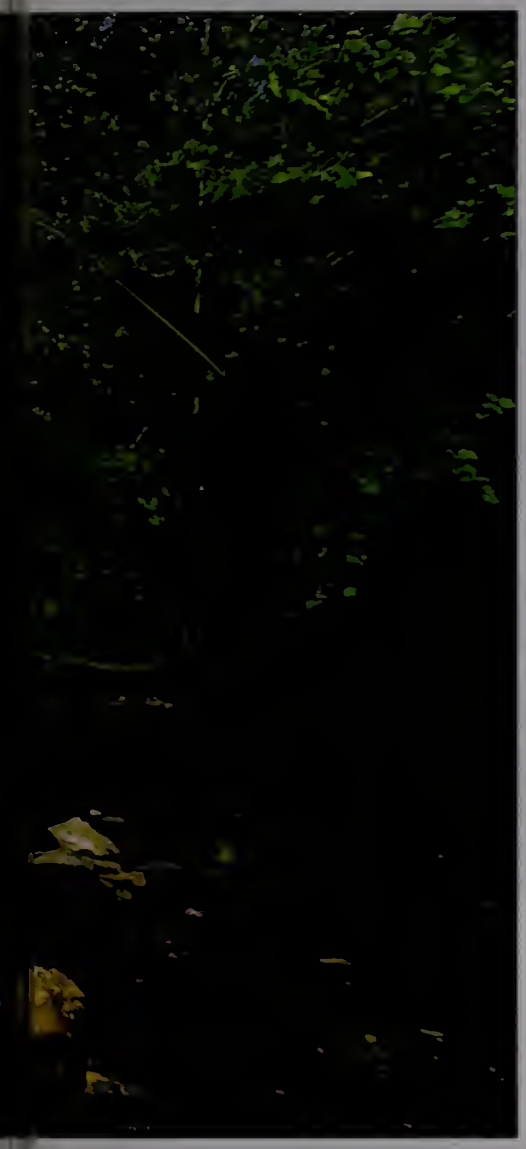
A Little About Trout

The Department stocks over a million trout for the angler's pleasure

by King Montgomery

"Trout," said my ichthyology professor back before bell-bottom trousers became popular, "are members of the family Salmonidae and are fusiform-shaped, soft-rayed fishes with a terminal mouth. They have three unpaired median fins, an adipose fin, and two sets of paired fins. But their most pleasing feature is their gorgeous coloration." "Trout," said a college lady friend as she admired my fresh-caught rainbow trout, "are beautiful."

And fortunately, there are lots of them, both wild and stocked throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Virginia is blessed with over 2,800 miles of trout streams and rivers, of which 2,300 miles contain wild trout populations. In addition, there are numerous ponds, small lakes and reservoirs that are home to trout. One of the many great things about trout is that they live in some



Above: *No other fish in Virginia offers more fun year round than trout. How else can one explain why he or she would stand knee deep in freezing water, rain or shine, and commence to brag over a six-inch fish.*
Right: *The brook trout is Virginia's only native trout, and the state fish of Virginia*

beautiful places; from a tree-lined creek in the shadow of the Capital Beltway in Northern Virginia, to a wild trout stream in the pristine hills toward the southwest, or a little native brook trout stream flowing gently into the Shenandoah Valley.

What is it about trout and fishing for them that captures us so completely? Why is it that just the nearness of trout enhances their mystique and makes us want to get even closer to them? "Fly-fishing for trout," says trout philosopher John Gierach, "is a sport that depends not so much on catching the fish as on their mere presence and on the fact that you do, now and again, catch some." Regardless of how we fish for them, the experience is always something special.

Trout do a lot of neat things for us, including keeping us humble, quite a feat. They can exasperate the most well-equipped and skilled angler, and, no matter how much advanced technology or witchcraft is used, trout, much more often than not, win the match and remain uncaught. The late Harry Middleton, noted author and editor, sums it up nicely: "[The angler] expects nothing and accepts all that comes his way. And although he knows all along that he will never sink his hook into a trout stream's true mystery, the desire to try, to cast once more and once more again is never quenched, for there is always that chance that one more cast will carry him beyond skill and luck and bring him untarnished magic."

Like the caged canary in a mine deep below ground that gave advanced warning to miners of the early presence of deadly gases, trout serve a similar role as barometers for the health status of our streams and rivers. They are a metaphor for our own standing in the relative health of this fragile planet. University professor and outdoor writer Ted Leeson believes that, "Nearly every angler's attachment for trout and trout fishing stems from this immediate concern that the fate of trout in some measure reflects the fate of our world. Its health is an index of our own biological and ethical well-being, and the connection is worth preserving."

That trout and their magnificent settings are worth conserving is embodied in the mission of Trout Unlimited (TU), the nation's largest organization dedicated to conserving salmonids and restoring their habitat. TU's president, Charles Gauvin, says that most of his angling now, due to his hectic work schedule, is vicarious. But that's only part of the story. He further says, "whether and how we answer the call to join in habitat conservation and restoration...will determine the future quality of our trout-fishing experience. There are times when we all must be vicarious anglers, but we can ill-afford to be vicarious conservationists."

Yes, trout are special. When finally brought to net and held gently in the water, they reflect the sunlight as though they were a prism, or a many-faceted jewel. And looking at them we see beauty; theirs, the world's, ours, and the seamlessness of it all. □

King Montgomery, an award winning outdoor writer and an avid trout fisherman, is a regular contributor to Virginia Wildlife.

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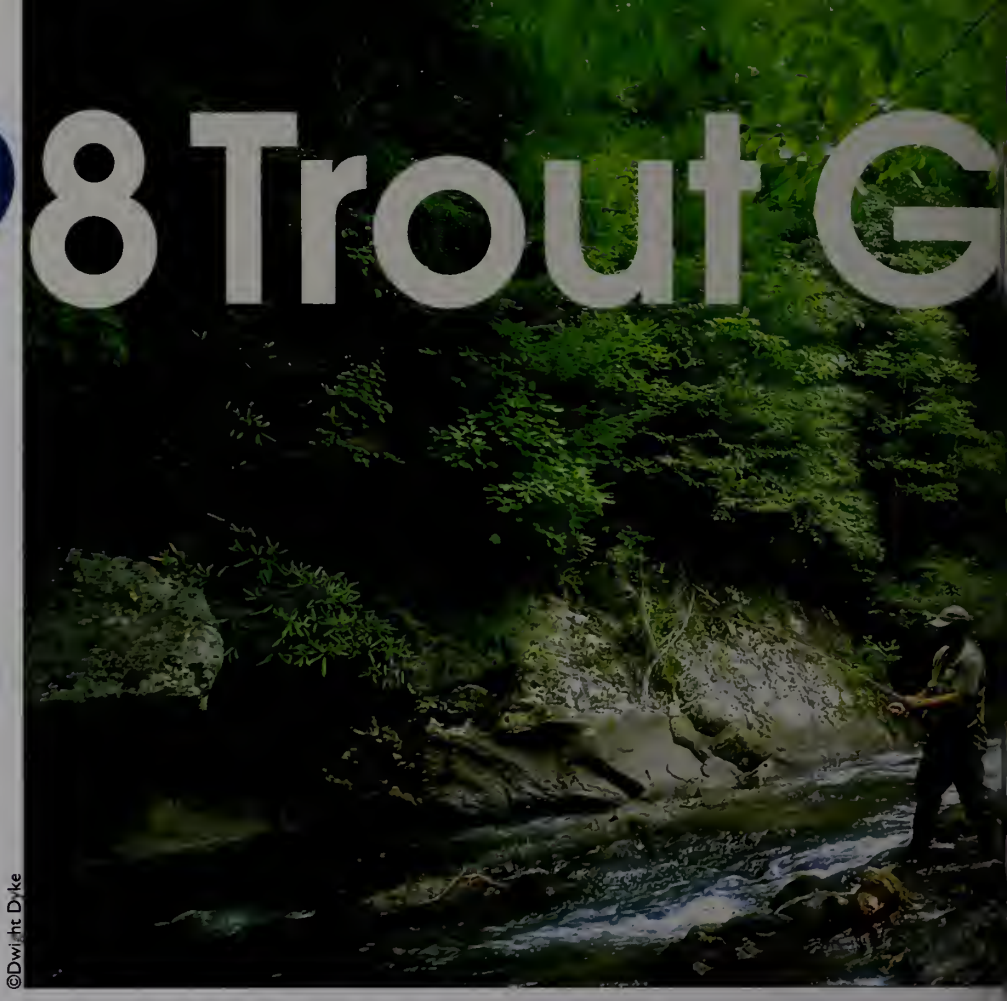
1998 Trout G



©Dwight Dyke

by Larry Mohn
VDGIF Fisheries Regional Manager

Introduction

Virginia contains over 2800 miles of trout streams in addition to numerous ponds, small lakes and reservoirs. The total includes over 2300 miles of wild trout streams and about 600 miles of water inhabited with stocked trout. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities.

Virginia's warm climate and topography generally limit trout habitat to the western portion of the state. The Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains provide the elevation to maintain low water temperatures year-round, while the valley between these ranges contains the unique limestone formations necessary to produce highly productive spring creeks.

Trout management in Virginia consists of three basic programs. The *catchable stocking program* is the best known and most popular. Such waters are stocked from October through May with catchable-sized trout. See the following *Trout Stocking Plan* on pages 10-11 for the streams and lakes stocked and their stocking schedule.

The *wild trout program* includes the management of reproducing populations of brook, rainbow, and brown trout. Efforts are directed primarily at habitat preservation and proper regulation for protection of spawning stocks.

The *fingerling stocking program* involves sublegal trout stockings. This relatively small program is rapidly growing in size and popularity due to the high quality trout fishing provided.

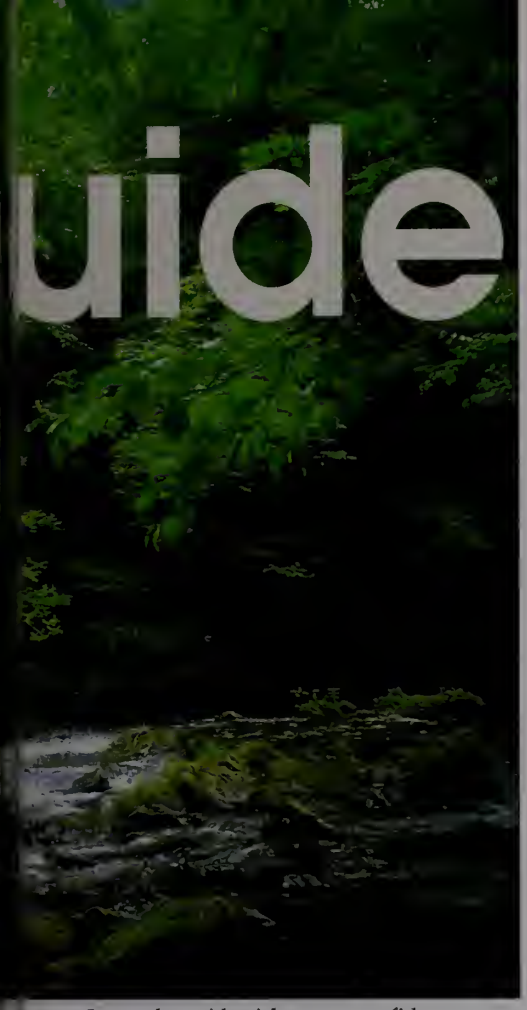
Restrictions have been applied to certain wild trout waters as well as several types of stocked trout streams to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch more and larger trout throughout the fishing season. These special regulation areas include some of the state's best trout waters and are described in detail in this guide.

The trout season is open year-round in Virginia. Fishing success for both wild and stocked trout should be very high through the spring, fall and mild winter periods. From June through September, normally low stream flows and warming water temperatures makes trout fishing more difficult. However, experienced trout anglers can find good trout fishing opportunities throughout the year.

All stocked, special regulation, and larger wild trout waters are featured on the five maps beginning on page 23 in this special issue.

New For 1998

Only a few changes have occurred in the trout program for this year. A number of new stocked trout streams or additional sections of streams have been added. New waters added to the catchable trout program include South River through the town of Grottoes in Rockingham County, Rocky Row Run in Amherst County and South Fork Moormans River in Albemarle County which returns to the stocking list after repair of flood damaged access. A new section of Cripple Creek at the Route 94 bridge in Wythe County and an additional section of Robinson River below the confluence of Rose River have also been added. The only losses to the program have been the loss of the Craig County section of special regulation water on Sinking Creek and Hawksbill Creek in Page County which has been removed from the stocking list due to continuing



It can be said with some confidence that trout don't live in ugly places.

health advisory problems. Finally, Hone Quarry Run in Rockingham County continues to be closed due to the access damage caused by last years flooding but, as of this writing, a contract for repair has been awarded and it is expected that the lake will reopen sometime during the year.

Regulations and management efforts have changed on that portion of the Jackson River below Gathright Dam. The single hook artificial lure only restriction has been removed and regulations have changed from catch and release to a creel of four trout per day over 12 inches. See the Jackson River Tailwater writeup on page 20 for more detail.

For the hearing impaired, the Department has installed a TDD line that will carry the daily trout stocking updates. The number for this new service is 804-525-4071.

Catchable Trout Stocking Program

As in most states, put-n-take trout fishing draws the most interest and attention in Virginia, probably because of the availability of catchable-sized trout and ease of capture. Virginia's catchable program is supported by hatcheries located at Marion, Paint Bank, and Wytheville. Three rearing facilities are located at Marion, Williamsville, and Montebello.

Trout eggs are collected from large brood stock in early fall at the hatcheries, and placed in hatching jars which maintain an even flow of well-oxygenated water through the eggs. Jars must be constantly cleaned and dead eggs removed to control disease. After 25 to 30 days the trout begin to hatch. The small "fry," as they are called, remain attached to their egg sacs for about 14 days, and draw their food from it. The fry are kept indoors in small troughs until their sacs are absorbed and they begin taking small pelleted food. When they reach a suitable fingerling stage (2-3 inches) they are transported to rearing facilities where they are placed in raceways.

The fish are fed several times daily for at least a year until they reach catchable size (9-11 inches). During this rearing period, it is necessary to clean raceways daily to control disease and occasionally grade fish to ensure that the larger trout will not eat smaller ones.

The program is covered primarily from the sale of trout licenses. In addition to a valid state fishing license, a trout license is required to legally fish in designated stocked trout waters. Annual output from the program is approximately 1,250,000 catchable trout in addition to variable numbers of fingerling and subcatchable trout used in other programs.

All streams on the stocking list have already received at least one stocking and will continue to be stocked into May. Stockings will be discontinued after late May or early June and will resume after October 1. Streams and lakes will be stocked at various intervals depending on their potential to hold trout during the late spring and early fall. Fishermen should find that most streams have good numbers of trout throughout the stocking season.

Waters to be stocked are listed by county in the following *Trout Stocking Plan*. The plan indicates the frequency of stocking and the specific stocking periods for each stream. Call your local VDGIF office for more information or 1-804-525-FISH for daily trout stocking updates during stocking season.

Stocked trout streams are marked with appropriate signs which identify the portion of stream stocked. Marked sections are open to public fishing in accordance with agreements between the Department and private landowners. This is the only case where anglers are not required to have landowner permission before fishing on private water.

Urban Fishing

The Department's Urban Fishing Program was launched in December 1993. This program is designed to provide high-quality fishing opportunities for anglers in urban and suburban areas. Currently, the program includes the stocking of six lakes: Cook Lake (Cameron Run Regional Park) in Alexandria, Locust Shade Pond in Prince William County, Dorey Park Lake in Henrico County, Shields Lake (Byrd Park) in Richmond, Lake Biggins (Huntington Park) in Newport News, and Northwest River Park in Chesapeake. Catchable trout are stocked at all sites from November through April, and channel catfish are stocked during warm weather months at Locust Shade, Dorey, and Byrd. This program is co-sponsored by the recreation department in each locality.

Special Regulations

Fee Fishing Areas

The fee fishing areas offer put-n-take trout fishing with the added advantage that trout are stocked several times weekly throughout the season. The fee fishing program operates from the first Saturday in April through September at Clinch Mountain and Crooked Creek and through October at Douthat. During the fee fishing season, a daily permit is required in addition to a valid Virginia fishing license. After the fee fishing season, these areas revert to designated stocked trout waters and a trout stamp is required instead of the daily permit. The creel limit at these areas is six fish per day.

Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area

The Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is located in southwest Virginia, about 7 miles west of Saltville. The area consists of the 330-acre Laurel Bed Lake and approximately seven miles of Big Tumbling Creek and its two major tributaries, Briar Cove Creek and Laurel Bed Creek. Big Tumbling Creek is a large, steep gradient stream with numerous small waterfalls and large, deep rocky pools. The two tributaries are much smaller with a more moderate gradient. The lake provides a good trout fishery and is used to regulate summer flow in the streams. Trout are stocked daily (except Sunday) throughout the fee period in the streams, and fishing begins at 6 a.m. daily. Camping is available at the area and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries owns and manages the surrounding land.

Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area

Crooked Creek is located in Carroll County, five miles east of Galax. The area consists of five miles of stream which is stocked. In addition, approximately two miles of stream are managed as a wild trout fishery. Crooked Creek is a wide, fairly low gradient stream with a gravel bottom. Surrounding land is mixed fields and woodlots not characteristic of the more common mountain stream drainages. Fishing must cease at 7 p.m. to allow for restocking. No facilities are available at Crooked Creek for camping, but private facilities are available nearby.

Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area

The Douthat Fee Fishing Area was expanded several years ago to include about four miles of Wilson Creek along with the stocking of 60-acre Douthat Lake. This fee-fishing area has two features designed to encourage children participation. A small children-only area has been established on Wilson Creek just below the dam. In addition, children 12 years of age or under can fish without a permit throughout the fee-fishing area as long as they are accompanied by a permitted adult and their combined creel does not exceed that of the adult. The lake provides fishing for bass, bluegill, pickerel, and catfish in addition to trout which are stocked twice weekly. The lake, stream and surrounding land are located within Douthat State Park and are administered by the Virginia Division of Parks. Available recreation includes camping, hiking and swimming in addition to fishing. Cabins are also available for rent if application is made well in advance. The park is located in a beautiful mountain setting with most of the surrounding land within the George Washington National Forest.

Delayed Harvest Trout Streams

In 1989, the Department initiated this management program with establishment of Virginia's first "delayed harvest" trout fishery. This program incorporates aspects of both catch-and-release and put-n-take trout fishing. Catchable-sized trout are stocked in the fall, winter and spring. From October 1 through the following May 31, only single hook artificial lures may be used and all fish must be returned unharmed. From June 1 through September 30, general trout regulations are in effect and trout may be creeled. The program was expanded from three streams to six streams in 1997.

©Dwight Dyke

When the trout truck rolls into town, Northwest River Park, one of six urban fishing lakes found in Virginia, becomes a hot spot for city dwellers to gather for some excellent fishing opportunities.

Accotink Creek (Fairfax County)

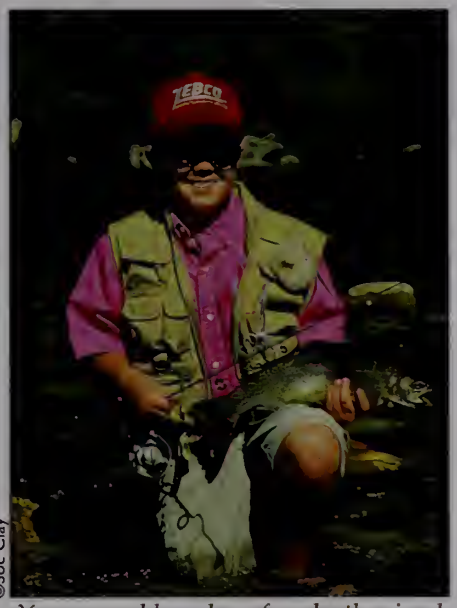
The delayed harvest section of Accotink Creek extends from Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) downstream 1.9 miles to Route 620 (Braddock Road). This stream section is bounded by a Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) floodplain park that belies the stream's urban setting (the upper boundary is adjacent to the Capital Beltway). The stream contains numerous riffle-run-pool sequences with good holding pools and has an abundance of large woody debris. Primary access is via the FCPA Wakefield Park facility off Braddock Road.

Back Creek (Bath County)

The rugged mountains that form the backdrop to the Back Creek special regulation area are one of the area's most appealing features. The stream is about 25 feet in width with moderate gradient and excellent fly-fishing opportunities. The stream has been extensively reconstructed to improve trout habitat by Virginia Power who constructed a pump storage facility just upstream. The land adjacent to this stream section is managed for recreation by Virginia Power. In addition to trout fishing, the area offers a campground, picnic pavilion, outdoor games, and two warmwater lakes for fishing and swimming. Take Route 39 west from Warm Springs to Mountain Grove then right on Route 600 for six miles.

North Fork of Pound River and Pound River (Wise County)

The delayed harvest section begins at the base of the North Fork of Pound Dam and extends downstream about 2 miles to the confluence of Indian Creek. The upper part of this section, on the North Fork of the Pound River, is a medium-sized stream with shallow runs and riffles flowing through fields and woodlots. Downstream of Route 23 the river passes through the town of Pound, gaining size and flow, and



Young or old, male or female, the simple pleasures of wading a trout stream will most always leave a smile on one's face and memories for a lifetime.

taking on a more urban setting. Access is available at the North Fork of Pound Dam, and at parking lots within the town of Pound. This stream should provide high catch rates and good fishing opportunities from October through early summer.

North River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section of the North River extends from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the head of the Staunton City Reservoir. This is a remote section of stream that can only be reached by foot trail. Access is available by parking at Elkhorn Lake and following the trail along the lake to the spillway. This area provides a remote, scenic fishing opportunity during the winter and spring months. Stream flow in the North River is usually low during summer and fall.

Passage Creek (Warren County)

The delayed harvest section of Passage Creek extends from the Warren County line downstream approximately one mile through the Department's Front Royal Fish Hatchery. This section of stream is immediately downstream from the area that has historically been stocked under the put-n-take program. Parking is available on Forest Service lands adjacent to Route 678 or on Department lands adjacent to Rt. 613.

South River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section extends from the Second Street bridge in Waynesboro upstream 2.4 miles to the base of Rife Loth Dam. This stream section runs through the city of Waynesboro and is in an urban setting. South River is a relatively large, wide stream with shallow runs and riffles. The stream provides outstanding fly-fishing opportunities because of its size and its abundance of aquatic insects. The stream is open to fishing year-round and provides excellent winter fishing.

Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

Several new waters have been added to the 1998 Trout Stocking Plan. These include Rocky Row Run in Amherst County, South Fork Moormans River in Albemarle County, South River (Grottoes) in Rockingham County and Cripple Creek at Route 94 in Wythe County. In addition, the stocking on Robinson River in Madison County has been extended an additional 1.6 miles below the confluence of Rose River. Hawksbill Creek in Page County has been dropped from this years list due to continuing health advisory problems. If those problems are corrected, the stream will be returned to the stocking program. At the time of this writing, Hone Quarry Lake in Rockingham County is the only remaining stocked water that is inaccessible due to last year's flood damage. It is anticipated that the repairs to Hone Quarry dam will be completed in time to provide some stocking in the lake this year.

Catchable Trout

	Category of Water	
ALBEMARLE COUNTY		
Moormans River (N. Forks)	B	(NSF)
Moormans River (S. Forks)	B	
Sugar Hollow Reservoir	A	
ALEXANDRIA CITY		
Cook Lake	U	
ALLEGHANY COUNTY		
Clifton Forge Reservoir*	A	
Smith Creek*	C	(NSF)
Pounding Mill Creek*	B	
Jerrys Run*	C	
AMHERST COUNTY		
Davis Mill Creek*	C	
Little Irish Creek*	C	(NSF)
Pedlar River (Upper)*	B	
Pedlar River (Lower)*	A	
Piney River (S. Fk. & Proper)*	B	(NSF)
Rocky Row Run*	C	
AUGUSTA COUNTY		
North River (Natural Chimneys)	B	
North River (Gorge)*	B	
North River (Upper)*	B	(NSF)
North River (Tail)*	DH	
South River	DH	
Mills Creek*	C	
Braley Pond*	A	
Back Creek*	B	
Upper Sherando Lake*	A	
Lower Sherando Lake*	A	
Hearthstone Lake*	A	
Falls Hollow*	C	(NSF)
Elkhorn Lake*	A	
BATH COUNTY		
Back Creek	DH	
Back Creek*	B	
Pads Creek*	C	
Jackson River (Hidden Valley)*	A	
Jackson River (Rt. 623)*	A	
Bullpasture River	A	
Spring Run	A	
Douthat Lake and Wilson Creek	+	
Jackson River Special Reg.*		
BEDFORD COUNTY		
Hunting Creek*	B	(NSF)
Liberty Lake	B	
BLAND COUNTY		
Lick Creek	B	
Laurel Fork Creek	C	
Wolf Creek	A	
BOTETOURT COUNTY		
Jennings Creek*	B	
North Creek*	B	
Middle Creek*	B	
McFalls Creek*	C	
Roaring Run*	B	
BUCHANAN COUNTY		
Dismal River	B	
Russell Fork River	C	
CARROLL COUNTY		
Crooked Creek	A	**
Laurel Fork Creek	A	
Little Reed Island Creek	A	
Lovills Creek	C	
Stewarts Creek	B	(NSF)
CHESAPEAKE CITY		
Northwest River Park	U	
CRAIG COUNTY		
Barbours Creek*	B	(NSF)
North Fork Barbours Creek*	C	(NSF)
Potts Creek*	A	
DICKENSON COUNTY		
Frying Pan Creek	C	
Russell Fork River (Haysi)	B	
Pound River	A	
Russell Fork River (Bartlick)	A	
Cranesnest River	B	
FAIRFAX COUNTY		
Accotink Creek	DH	
FAUQUIER COUNTY		
Thompson WMA Pond	B	
FLOYD COUNTY		
Mira Fork	B	(NSF)
Burkes Fork	A	
Goose Creek	C	
Howell Creek	B	(NSF)
Little Indian Creek	B	(NSF)
Little River	A	
Laurel Fork	B	
West Fork Little River	B	(NSF)
Rush Fork	C	(NSF)
FRANKLIN COUNTY		
Maggadee Creek	B	
Runnett Bag Creek	B	
FREDERICK COUNTY		
Winchester Lake	A	
Hogue Creek	B	
Paddy Run*	B	
Clearbrook Lake	A	
GILES COUNTY		
Big Stoney Creek*	A	
Dismal Creek*	B	(NSF)
GRAYSON COUNTY		
Big Wilson Creek	B	
Middle Fox Creek	B	
Big Fox Creek*	B	
Elk Creek	A	
Helton Creek		
Hales Lake*		
GREENE COUNTY		
Lynch River		
South River		
HENRICO COUNTY		
Dorey Park Lake		
HENRY COUNTY		
Smith River (Dam)		
Smith River (Lower)		
HIGHLAND COUNTY		
Bullpasture River		
S. Br. Potomac River		
LEE COUNTY		
Martins Creek		
North Fork Powell River		
MADISON COUNTY		
Hughes River		
Robinson River		
Rose River		
MONTGOMERY COUNTY		
Craig Creek*		
Poverty Creek*		
South Fork Roanoke River		
Toms Creek		
NELSON COUNTY		
Tye River		
South Rockfish River		
NEWPORT NEWS CITY		
Biggins Lake		
PAGE COUNTY		
Cub Run*		
Upper Passage Creek*		
PATRICK COUNTY		
Ararat River		
Clarks Creek		
Dan River (Above Talbott)		
Dan River (Below Powerhouse		
South Mayo River (North Fork		
South Mayo River (South Fork		
Rockcastle Creek		
Round Meadow Creek		
Poorhouse Creek		
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY		
Locust Shade Park		
Quantico MCB		
PULASKI COUNTY		
Peak Creek		
RICHMOND CITY		
Shield Lake		

Stocking Plan

tegory of Water			Category of Water
C		**ROANOKE COUNTY**	
A		Glade Creek	A
		Roanoke River (City)	A
		Tinker Creek	A
C		Roanoke River (Salem)	A
B			
		ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY	
U		Mill Creek*	A
		Irish Creek*	B
		South River	B
B		Maury River	A
A			
		ROCKINGHAM COUNTY	
		North Fork Shenandoah River	B
A		German River	C
B		Dry River	B (NSF)
		Silver Lake	B
A		Shoemaker River	C
A		Briery Branch Lake*	A
		Hone Quarry Lake*	A
		Hone Quarry Run*	C
A		Slate Lick Lake*	B
A		Slate Lick Run*	B
A		South River (Grottoes)	A
		RUSSELL COUNTY	
B		Big Cedar Creek	A
C			
A		**SCOTT COUNTY**	
B		Little Stony Creek*	B
		Stock Creek	C
		Big Stony Creek	B
A		Straight Fork (Lower)	C
C	(NSF)	Bark Camp Lake*	A
		SHENANDOAH COUNTY	
U		Stony Creek	A
		Mill Creek	B
B		Peters Mill Creek*	C
C		Tomahawk Pond*	B
		Passage Creek*	A
		Little Passage Creek*	C
B			
B		**SMYTH COUNTY**	
B	(NSF)	South Fork Holston River (Lower)	A
A		Staley Creek	B
C		South Fork Holston River (Gorge)*	A
C		Comers Creek*	C
B		Hurricane Creek*	C
C	(NSF)	Cressy Creek*	C
C	(NSF)	Dickey Creek*	C
		Middle Fork Holston River (Marion)	A
		Middle Fork Holston River (Upper)	C
U			
B	(NSF)	**TAZEWELL COUNTY**	
		Laurel Creek*	C
		Roaring Fork*	C
B		Little Tumbling Creek	B
		Lake Witten	A
U		Lincolnshire Lake	A
		WARREN COUNTY	
		Happy Creek	B

	Category of Water
Passage Creek	DH
WASHINGTON COUNTY	
Whitetop Laurel (Upper)*	A
Whitetop Laurel (Lower)*	A
Tennessee Laurel	A
Big Brumley Creek	C
Valley Creek	C
Big Tumbling Creek	A **
Straight Branch*	C
Bear Tree Lake*	A
WISE COUNTY	
Clear Creek*	C
Middle Fork Powell River	B
Pound River/N.Fk. Pound River	DH
WYTHE COUNTY	
Stoney Creek*	C
Gullion Fork Creek*	C
Gullion Fork Ponds	C
West Fork Reed Creek*	C
Cripple Creek (Ravens)	A
Cripple Creek (Rt. 94)	A

Category A, stocked once in each of the following periods: October; November/December; January/February; March (twice); April (twice); May (twice)

Category B, stocked once during each of the following periods: November-December; January/February; March; April-May 15 (twice)

Category C, one stocking in each of the following periods: November/December; March; April

*	National Forest Waters
+	Douthat stocked as Category A, Wilson as Category B Put & Take water after fee fishing season
DH	Delayed Harvest Water-Special Regulations apply, please refer to article on Delayed Harvest, this issue.
(NSF)	These waters **do not** receive fall & early winter stockings
U	Urban fishing waters, trout license required November 1 through April 30, stocked 10 times
**	A section of these waters is reserved for a fee fishing area

Stocking information for put-n-take stocking can be obtained by calling **1-804-525-FISH** or for hearing impaired **1-804-525-4071**. The recording is updated after 4 p.m. each day fish are stocked.

Trout Species Of Virginia

Trout belong to the salmon family (Salmonidae) which are native only to the northern hemisphere. Salmonidae includes trout, salmon, char, whitefish and grayling.

Brook Trout
(Salvelinus fontinalis)

Coloration: The brook trout is Virginia's most colorful trout species. Its back is dark olive green with light, wormy lines. Its sides have light spots on a dark background and red spots surrounded by a bluish halo. Often the entire side has a bluish tint. Its belly area is generally white with intense orange-red streaking during spawning season. Lower fins are distinctively marked with an outer white edge, black line and reddish coloration.

Distribution: The brook trout is endemic to eastern North America, meaning that originally it occurred in no other region. Initial distribution included the Atlantic seaboard south to Cape Cod, the Appalachians south to Georgia, then extending west through the Great Lakes to Minnesota and north to Hudson Bay. Due to its popularity as a gamefish, however, it has been introduced into many other regions and is now found in much of the western United States, Europe, South America, New Zealand and Asia. No other species of trout occurred in Virginia prior to man's stocking activities.

Biology: Brook trout generally spawn in October and November in Virginia. Spawning takes place in small streams, generally near the tail of a pool. Brook trout generally move upstream to spawn, often into the smaller headwater tributaries. An average female in Virginia lays approximately 100 eggs in a clean gravel bed. Eggs hatch about two months after they are spawned, and fry emerge from the gravel the following March.

Brook trout in Virginia reach sexual maturity at two years of age and an average length of 6.5 inches. Life span of this species is generally less than four years in this region, with most fish reaching about 9 to 12 inches by this time. Brook trout to 18 inches have been collected in Virginia and some streams contain occasional trout of 12 to 16 inches. However, very few fish in a population can be expected to reach this size even with restricted fishing.

The diet of brook trout consists of almost anything in the stream. Although their preferred foods consist of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates; minnows, salamanders and frogs are also taken. In most cases, available food is a limiting factor in the unproductive mountain streams common to Virginia. Therefore, fish must be non-selective and opportunistic to compete. **State Record:** 5 lbs., 10 ozs., Big Stony Creek, Shenandoah County.

Rainbow Trout
(Onchorynchus mykiss)

Coloration: This fish has an olive-green back often with a silvery cast grading to a silvery white underside. The dominant characteristic is the pink band extending from the cheek to near the tail. Rainbows are generally well spotted with black spots intensifying on the upper fins and tail. The anal fin is often tipped with white in streambed fish.

Distribution: Rainbow trout are native to the Pacific Coast from Alaska to northern Mexico eastward to the continental divide. The steelhead is the same species, differing only in its need to migrate to and from the ocean. Rainbows have been widely distributed and now occur throughout the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South America, Africa, Japan, Asia, Europe and Hawaii. In Virginia, the species is well established in the southwestern region of the state and is the dominant trout in the Mt. Rogers Area. North of Roanoke, distribution is quite scattered with most rainbow populations occurring in spring creeks. Although rainbow trout have displaced the brook trout over much of its range in the southeastern United States, most of the remaining brook trout habitat in Virginia does not appear suitable for the rainbow.

Top: *Brook trout* (Salvelinus fontinalis). ***Above:*** *Rainbow trout* (Onchorynchus mykiss). ***Right:*** *Brown trout* (Salmo trutta). *Photos by ©M.L. Giovannetti.*

Biology: Life history of various rainbow trout populations can differ significantly. Certain strains will migrate from a lake or ocean into streams to spawn, while others may remain in the same stream throughout their life. Also, time of spawning can vary greatly between populations. Certain behavioral and physiological differences are genetic, providing fish managers with additional management tools.

In Virginia, most wild rainbow trout populations are strictly stream residents. Spawning occurs in gravel beds similar to those used by brook trout. The major difference is that rainbow trout are generally spring spawners, laying eggs in

March. Hatchery managers have altered this natural spawning time, however, to create fall spawners for hatchery purposes. This fall spawning characteristic is apparently retained by some of Virginia's wild rainbow trout populations. Rainbow trout also have greater reproductive potential than brooks, with females laying 800 to 1000 eggs depending on the size of the fish. This higher reproductive capacity is probably the reason over-exploitation is less of a problem than it is with brook trout.

The diet of rainbows is quite similar to that of brook trout. Larger rainbows often show a greater preference for minnows than do brookies, but the main diet still consists of invertebrates. Rainbows are somewhat more selective than brook trout and therefore slightly more difficult to catch.

Rainbows have the potential to attain a much greater size than brook trout, but in Virginia's mountain streams they exhibit similar growth and age structure. In spring creeks and large reservoirs, however, rainbow trout over 5 pounds are not uncommon. **State Record:** 14 lbs. 7 ozs., Greer Trout Pond, Grayson County.

Brown Trout
(Salmo trutta)

Coloration: The dorsal area of this fish is usually brown, giving way to silvery sides and a yellowish underbelly. Pronounced black spots, often surrounded by a lighter halo, are spread along much of its body, extending well below the lateral line. In addition, irregularly shaped red or orange spots are also present along its sides. Some dark spots occur on the dorsal, adipose and tail fin, but such coloration is not as concentrated as on rainbows. The adipose fin is usually an orange/red color.

Distribution: Brown trout are native only to Europe and western Asia. They have been widely introduced elsewhere and are now found throughout the United States, southern Canada and the Rocky Mountains, as well as in South America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In Virginia, brown trout distribution is limited, with most wild populations occuring in the Carroll, Floyd, and Patrick County areas. Small scattered populations also occur in the lower portion of many larger wild brook trout streams throughout the state.

Biology: Brown and brook trout require similar spawning habitats often utilizing the same sites in streams containing both species. Brown trout spawn later than brook trout, generally in November and December in Virginia. They have a higher reproductive potential than the other two species, mainly because of their larger size.

Brown trout reach sexual maturity at two to three years of age. The life expectancy of this species is much longer than that of the other two trout. Although life spans of 10 to 15 years have been reported, brown trout in Virginia usually do not exceed four to five years of age. The longer life span naturally increases the potential size of the brown despite annual growth rates similar to brook trout. Small mountain streams that rarely have brook trout over 12 inches will often produce brown trout over 20 inches.

Brown trout are highly carnivorous, maintaining a diet of insects, crustaceans, mollusks, salamanders, frogs, rodents, and fish. Fish and crayfish are the predominant diet of browns over 12 inches while smaller trout generally stick to invertebrates. Larger browns have a tendency to feed at dusk and after dark, making the larger fish difficult to catch. **State Record:** 14 lbs. 12 ozs., South Fork Holston River.

Wild Trout Program

Wild trout populations require cold, well-oxygenated water, a clean stream bottom and good fish cover. In Virginia, most trout habitat losses occur through increased stream temperature, siltation and stream channel alteration.

Water temperature requirements may be the most critical factor facing Virginia's trout populations, and the state's generally warm climate and normally low summer stream flows do not help the situation. Most shaded mountain streams do not exceed

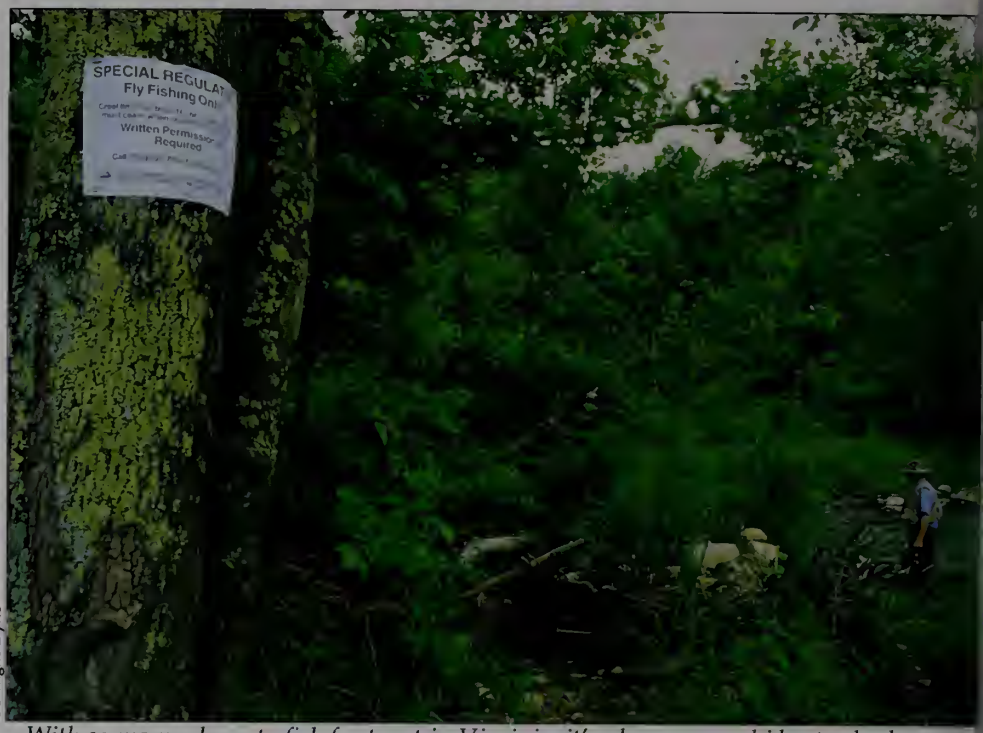
70°F during the summer, which is suitable for trout. Aquatic habitat and suitable water temperature can be maintained even during logging and farming operations when streamside vegetation is left intact. In most cases, maximum stream temperatures in the low 70s are within the tolerable range for trout, but such temperatures improve the habitat for other stream fishes which trout can not compete against.

Siltation and other more direct forms of habitat alteration, such as channelization, have also cost Virginia many miles of trout water. Silted stream bottoms decrease the stream's insect population, an important source of trout food. Siltation also makes trout reproduction difficult. Trout lay eggs in stream gravel, and clean gravel is necessary to insure movement of oxygenated water over the eggs. As little as a quarter-inch of silt over trout eggs can result in 100 percent mortality.

Alteration of stream channels is also of critical concern, not only due to the increased siltation it causes, but also due to the removal of fish cover and the potential to raise water temperatures. Trout require overhead cover such as an undercut bank, large rocks or submerged logs. When such cover is removed, the trout leave. Lack of suitable cover limits the number of large trout a stream can support.

Virginia lost many good wild trout populations prior to the mid-1970s due to habitat degradation. However, many of the land-use practices that resulted in those losses—widespread stream channelization, poor logging techniques, removal of streamside vegetation, intensive agriculture in riparian areas, etc.—have been improved to the point where over the past two decades, physical habitat has been improving. In addition, the Department maintains a current inventory of wild trout streams that provides the data necessary to protect this critical habitat.

The Department's trout stream inventory identifies over 2300 miles of wild trout streams in Virginia. Biologists are encouraged to find that



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With so many places to fish for trout in Virginia, it's always a good idea to check the regulations before you go.

brook trout, the only trout species native to Virginia, still accounts for 80 percent of the wild trout resource in the state. Rainbow trout, a western introduction, have taken over many of the native brook trout streams in the other southeastern states. In fact, Virginia currently has more native brook trout streams than all other southeastern states combined.

Growth rates of wild trout, particularly brook trout, in Virginia are exceptional when compared with growth rates for similar streams in some other states. In most Virginia streams, adult brook trout average 8 to 10 inches by their third year of age. In respect to the number of streams available and the size of trout present, Virginia probably offers the best native brook trout fishing south of New England.

The major management problem associated with Virginia's wild trout population appears to be excessive fishing pressure on many of the more popular streams, resulting in over-exploitation. Unlike warmwater fish such as bass and bluegill, trout have a very low ability to reproduce. Therefore, in heavily fished areas, it is imperative to protect trout until they are able to spawn at least once. In order to accomplish this objective, a 7-inch minimum size limit has been imposed on all trout creeled in Virginia. Such a limit will allow most wild trout to reach spawning age before they are subject to harvest.

Special Regulation Wild Trout Streams

In the following streams, regulations require the use of single hook artificial lures and all trout less than 9 inches in length be returned to the water unharmed. The exceptions are the Rapidan River and its tributaries, Stewart's Creek, North Fork Moorman River, Dan River, East Fork of Chestnut Creek, Roaring Fork, and South Fork Holston River, which require the release of all fish caught, and Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks which have a 12-inch minimum size limit.

Buffalo River (Amherst County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of North Fork of Buffalo

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With a little patience and a bit of luck, beauties like this fat rainbow can make for some unsurpassed dining pleasures.

River and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. Access is available by forest trail off of Forest Road 51 or from the end of State Route 635. Buffalo Creek is a moderate to high gradient stream dominated by large boulders and deep pools. The stream contains a good native brook trout population with numerous fish 8 to 10 inches in length.

Big and Little Wilson Creeks (Grayson County)

The special regulation sections of Big Wilson and Little Wilson Creeks and their tributaries include all portions of each stream within the boundaries of Grayson Highlands State Park and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Big and Little Wilson Creeks provide the opportunity to fish for both wild rainbow and brook trout. Brook trout are primarily restricted to the headwaters of both streams and their tributaries. Rainbow trout can be found throughout the area. Big Wilson Creek offers some spectacular scenery. Large boulders predominate the stream channel, interspersed with deep pools associated with a steep gradient characterize the stream. Access can be gained through Grayson Highlands State Park or Route 806 and 817 off U.S. Route 58. Be prepared to do some hiking to fish this area.

Conway River/Devils Ditch (Greene County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Conway River and its major tributary, Devils Ditch, within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream contains brook trout in the upper reaches with wild brown trout scattered through the lower portions. Adult brook trout range from 7 to 11 inches in length, brown trout occasionally exceed 20 inches. The stream lies north of Stanardsville and can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill. The area adjoins the Shenandoah National Park.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The Dan River in Patrick County from the Pinnacles Powerhouse to Townes Dam is designated as a catch-and-release trout fishery. The Dan River below the Pinnacles Powerhouse (Kibler Valley) remains put-n-take trout water. Reproducing brown trout are the dominant species in the lower reaches of the section, while wild brook trout are found in the upper reaches. This three-mile section of the Dan River has been subjected to very low flows for years, however, a new agreement with the City of Danville has resulted in greatly improved flows. The special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 8 south of Stuart to Route 103 west, turn right on Route 648 at Claudeville and proceed to the powerhouse. In addition, the section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from the Meadows of Dan. Turn left on Route 602 from Route 614 and proceed to Townes Dam. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge at the Pinnacles Powerhouse or from the City Utilities Department. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: 804/799-5270.

East Fork of Chestnut Creek (Grayson and Carroll Counties)

East Fork of Chestnut Creek, locally known as Farmer's Creek, has recently been designated a catch-and-release trout fishery. The special regulation section includes all portions of the creek upstream of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The lower mile of the special regulation area is a low gradient native brook trout stream with numerous deep pools and undercut banks. The stream decreases in size and increases in gradient upstream and is characterized by numerous small plunge pools and a dense rhododendron canopy. Adult brook trout average 8-13 inches in length with occasional larger fish in the lower reaches. The stream lies south of Galax, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway a short distance east of Route 89.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Little Stony Creek in the Jefferson National Forest. Most of the special section is below the Cascades waterfall. The upper reaches of Little Stony Creek contain native brook trout, but rainbow trout comprise most of the trout population below the Cascades. Adult rainbows average 7 to 12 inches in length. The area is heavily used by hikers and picnickers. The stream is located near Pembroke and can be reached by Route 623.

Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County)

Little Stony Creek is a small mountain brook trout stream. The special regulations apply to that portion of stream above Woodstock Reservoir. Adult brook trout presently average 7 to 10 inches in length. The stream is located west of Woodstock and Forest Service Road 92 crosses the lower portion of the special regulation section. Much of the upper reaches can only be reached by foot trail.

North Creek (Botetourt County)

The upper section of the stream (above the first bridge upstream of the North Creek campground) is

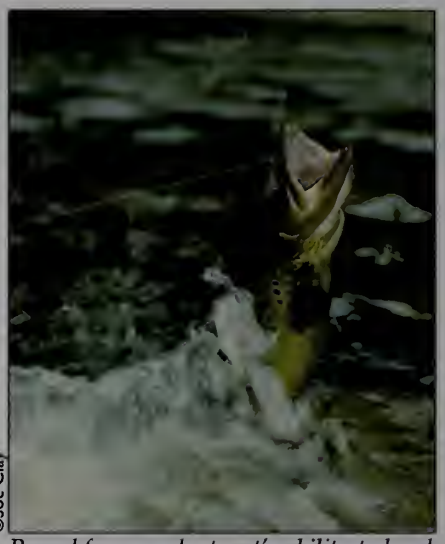
designated for special regulations, while the lower portion remains put-n-take trout water. Rainbow trout predominate, although brook trout are present in the headwater tributaries. Adult trout will range from 7 to 12 inches. The stream is located east of Buchanan, a short distance from I-81. The Jefferson National Forest maintains a campground adjacent to the stream and vehicular access is available along most of its length.

North Fork Moormans River (Albemarle County)

That portion of the Moormans River lying within the Shenandoah National Park is designated as fish-for-fun. The stream has historically contained an excellent population of brook trout with numerous adults of 8 to 12 inches. In addition, a small population of wild brown trout can be found in the lower half of the stream. However, this drainage was struck with devastating floods during June, 1995. The stream suffered significant habitat damage and resident trout populations have been severely reduced. It will require several years for this population to recover. Access to the Moormans River has been restored over State Route 614 past Sugar Hollow Reservoir but much of the streamside trail no longer exists. Call the Shenandoah National Park for current information.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County)

Ramsey's Draft and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest provide over 10 miles of native brook trout water. Most of this section of stream is located within the Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area providing the angler with the opportunity to fish for quality native trout in a remote setting. Summer flows are usually quite low in this stream so plan to fish Ramsey's Draft during the springtime. To reach Ramsey's Draft, drive 15 miles west of Churchville on State Route 250 and look for the Mountain Home Picnic Area on the right. A foot trail parallels the stream from the picnic area.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Pound for pound a trout's ability to bend the stiffest fishing rod is renowned.

Rapidan River (Madison County)

The Rapidan River is Virginia's best-known trout stream. Not only was it the state's first special regulation stream, it was also the site of the Presidential Retreat established by President Hoover. Much of the original Camp Hoover is still intact and is occasionally used. The special regulation area of the Rapidan includes all the stream and its tributaries within the Shenandoah National Park and the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream generally contains an excellent native brook trout population with good numbers of 10 to 11- inch adults.

This stream drainage was hit by devastating floods in June, 1995 and September, 1996. Stream habitat has been severely impacted along the lower reaches and in one tributary, the Staunton River. Impacts to the resident trout population can be expected to be high in the Staunton River and lower reaches of the Rapidan. The impact of these floods on trout populations in the upper Rapidan and other tributaries is much less severe. Access to the Rapidan has been restored over Route 662 from Graves Mill and over Route 649 from Criglersville. Call the Shenandoah National Park or local VDGIF office for current conditions.

Roaring Fork (Tazewell County)

This special regulation area is located within the boundaries of the Beartown Wilderness Area of the Jefferson National Forest. Acidification of this stream resulting in a steadily declining brook trout population prompted the inclusion of this stream section into Virginia's catch and release trout regulations. Access to the special regulated section is difficult and some hiking will be required. Access can be gained from Forest Service Road 222 off of Route 16, south of Tazewell.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County)

The special regulation section includes all portions of the St. Mary's River above the gate at the National Forest boundary. It is a fairly high gradient stream with a number of waterfalls. Although water levels can get quite low along lower reaches, flows are much improved upstream and large, deep pools provide ample trout cover. Adult brook trout average 8 to 12 inches in length. Due to acidification of the stream in recent years, brook trout have replaced rainbows as the dominant trout species. The stream lies east of Raphine off of Route 608 a short distance from I-81. Most of the area is accessible by foot trail only and backpacking is popular .

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

This section of the South Fork Holston River lies within the boundaries of VDGIF's Buller Fish Hatchery. From the concrete dam downstream to the lower boundary of the hatchery property, only artificial lures with single hooks may be used and all trout caught must be released. This special regulation section of stream provides an excellent opportunity to catch trout of trophy size. Access can be gained through the Buller Fish Hatchery property off of Route 650, south of Marion.

Stewart's Creek (Carroll County)

Stewart's Creek is another of the catch-and-release trout fisheries in the state. It is a high-gradient native brook trout stream with numerous plunge pools, rock ledges, and a

dense rhododendron canopy for cover. Approximately 4.5 miles of Stewart's Creek and its two major tributaries, North Fork and South Fork Stewart's Creek, were opened to the public in 1989 for year-round fishing. Only single hook artificial lures can be used.

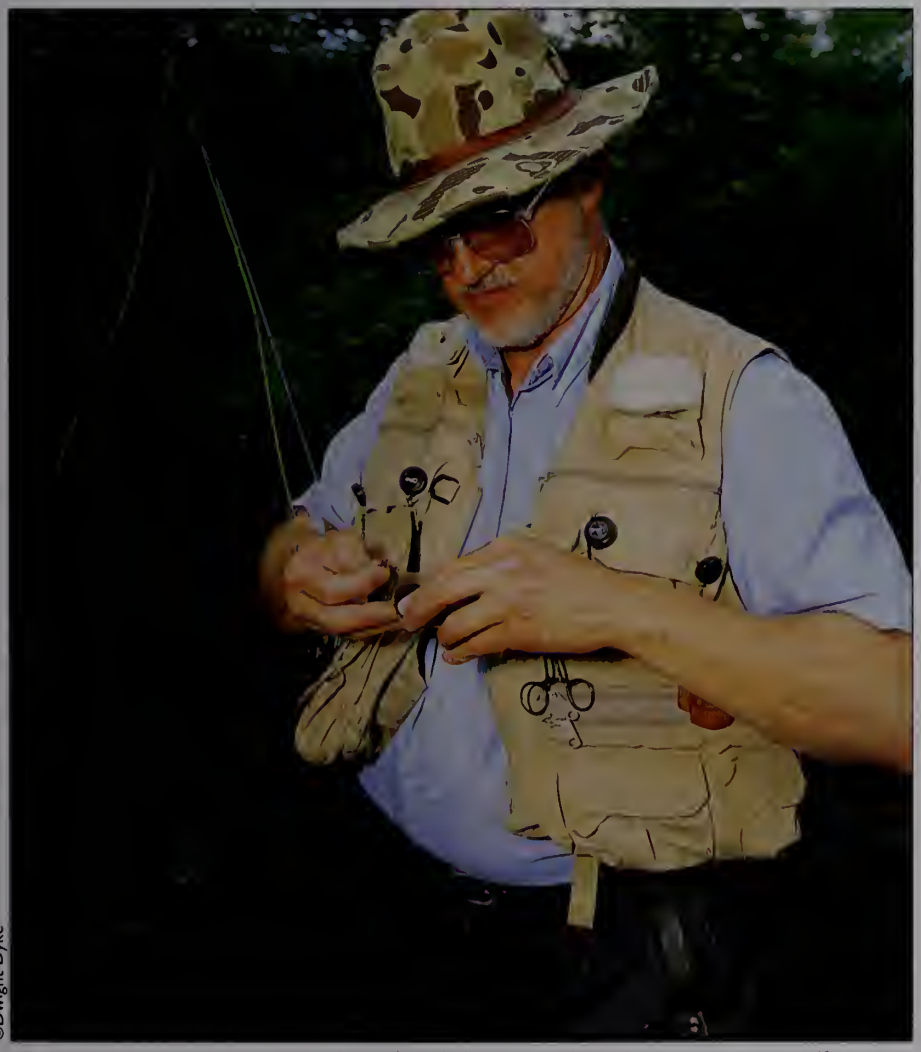
Stewart's Creek Wildlife Management Area is southeast of Galax on the east side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take Exit 1 off I-77. Follow the trailblazer signs to the area.

Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks (Washington County)

The special regulation area includes the lower mile of Green Cove Creek plus Whitetop Laurel Creek from the mouth of Green Cove to the first bridge above the village of Taylors Valley. Whitetop Laurel is one of Virginia's largest and most beautiful wild trout streams. Wild rainbow trout dominate, with most adults in the 7 to 14-inch class. A few wild brown trout provide occasional trophy fish. The special regulation area is located east of Damascus near the Tennessee line and lies within the Mount Rogers Recreation Area. Minimum size limit in this section is 12 inches.

Shenandoah National Park (SNP)

The Park provides an entire region of special regulation trout streams extending from Front Royal to Waynesboro. Park regulations were modified in 1996 and most streams are now open to fishing. However, only a portion of those streams open to angling allow for harvest of trout. Check with SNP for their annual list of streams where harvest is permitted. All fishing in the Park is restricted to the use of single hook artificial lures. In streams allowing harvest, the creel limit is six trout per day, all of which must be nine inches or more in length. Most streams within the Park contain good populations of native brook trout while a few of the larger east slope streams also contain isolated populations of brown trout.



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For many trout anglers a well-stocked fishing vest is as important as a well-stocked trout stream.

Fingerling Stocking Program

The fingerling stocking program is the smallest of the state's three management programs, but also the fastest growing. Established in the mid-1970s, it is designed to take advantage of the natural potential of high-elevation lakes, deep reservoirs, cold-water tailwaters and spring-fed streams, to produce quality trout fishing opportunities where wild fisheries are not possible due to lack of natural reproduction.

Because summer water temperatures are usually a limiting factor to trout survival in Virginia, under this program a stream or lake must provide suitable year-round water temperatures for trout survival, have good habitat, and be productive enough to provide adequate food for good growth.

Suitable trout waters are stocked once annually with fingerling or subcatchable (smaller than the legal size limit) trout, and often length limits and angling gear restrictions are imposed to protect these small fish until they reach harvestable size. In areas receiving heavy fishing pressure, special regulation gear restrictions imposed are often necessary to avoid high hooking mortality rates that can occur when bait fishing is permitted. These fish will

often be caught several times before they eventually reach harvestable size, and the program can only be successful if hooking mortality remains low.

Depending on the length limit, these stocked fish will not reach a legal size for six months to two years. During this time, trout lose most of their hatchery characteristics, both in appearance and behavior, and create a fishery that approaches a wild one in terms of fishing experience.

Some of Virginia's most exciting trout fishing opportunities can be found within our fingerling stocking program, and by stocking small fish once a year, a high quality fishery can be developed at a fraction of the cost of the more common put-n-take program. Many anglers have discovered this quality angling and participation in the program is rapidly growing. VDGIF recognizes this growing interest and is continuing to develop new waters in the state.

Trout Lakes

The warm summer climate of Virginia limits the potential for development of good trout populations in lakes. Numerous small ponds and lakes are stocked under the catchable stocking program (see *Trout Stocking Plan*), however, very few provide good year-round trout habitat for management of wild or put-n-grow trout fisheries. In order to provide adequate coldwater habitat in Virginia, a lake must either be located at high elevations where cool summer temperatures prevail, or be deep enough to maintain a cold layer of water. Virginia has five small lakes at sufficient elevation for trout and three reservoirs deep enough to provide a two-story fishery. These two-story reservoirs stratify during summer months, providing an upper, warmwater layer where fish such as bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish exist, and a deep, coldwater layer suitable for trout.

Laurel Bed Lake (Russell County)

Laurel Bed Lake is a 330-acre, mountaintop impoundment located approximately 10 miles northwest of Saltville. The lake is included in the Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area and, in addition to providing a unique fishery, is used to augment flow to Big Tumbling Creek during summer months. As with the remaining sections of the fee fishing area, a daily permit is required in addition to a state fishing license. The fishery has been based almost entirely on brook trout in past years. Fishing is usually excellent through June with limits of trout being common. Favored fishing methods include nightcrawlers, mealworms, flies and spinners. Minnows are not allowed at the lake in order to prevent introduction of other fish species. Fishing usually becomes sporadic as the lake temperature increases, with fish hitting well for a few days, then slacking off for several days. Favorite summer fishing spots are located around coves where spring branches enter. Late summer and early fall fishing is dependent on the number of fish that survive through the summer, and changes significantly from year to year. Limited camping is permitted on the management area and a concession is in operation.

Lexington City Reservoir (Rockbridge County)

The Lexington City Reservoir is a 22-acre, high elevation lake located in Rockbridge County. It is a put-n-grow lake that is stocked annually with brook trout. The brookies have done well in the reservoir and many measure 9 to 13 inches in length.

It is a long hike across USFS lands to the reservoir and primitive camping is permitted. General fishing regulations are in effect and no trout stamp is required.

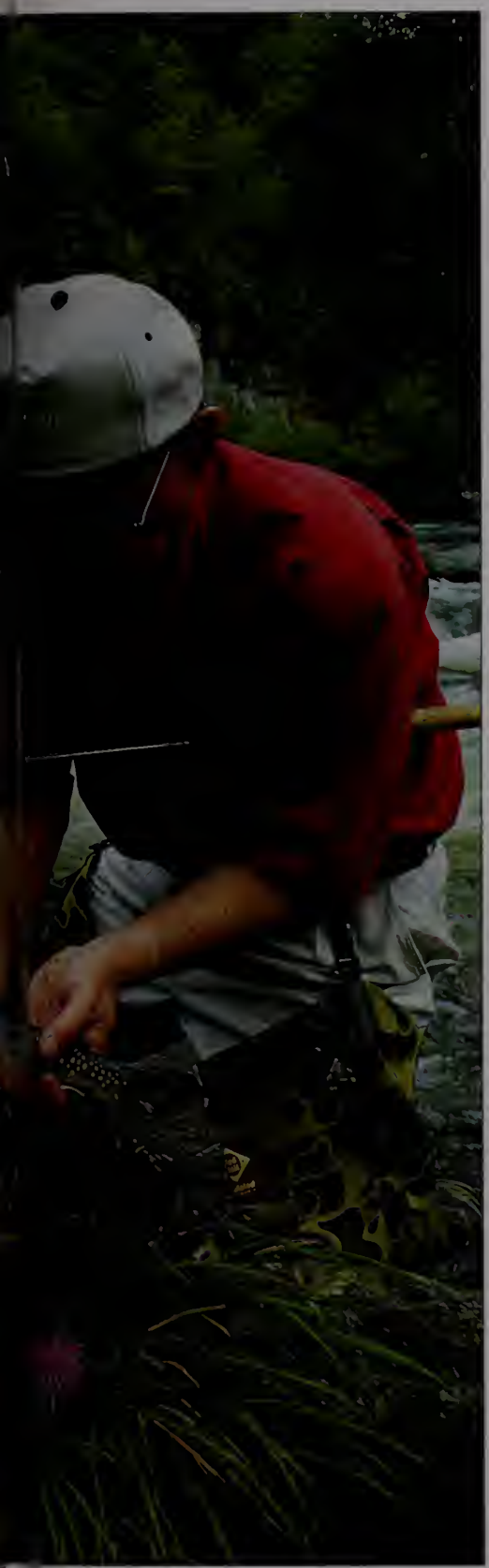
Mills Creek and Coles Run Reservoirs (Augusta County)

Mills Creek (17 acres) and Coles Run (13 acres) are located in the Pedlar Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. They are both old Augusta County Water Supply Reservoirs that were first opened to fishing in 1990.

The lakes are managed as put-n-

©Soc Clay

Trophy brook trout like this one don't get that goes into managing Virginia's trout waters.



ny / accident. A lot a manpower and hours

grow lakes and are stocked annually with small brook trout. Samples collected show good populations of 10 to 12-inch brook trout.

There are no facilities and access by foot is about a half mile to Coles Run and 1.5 miles to Mills Creek. For more information, call the Pedlar Ranger District in Buena Vista at (540) 261-6105. Access is west of Route 664 at Sherando off of Forest Road 42.

Skidmore Lake (Switzer Dam)

Skidmore Lake is a 104-acre impoundment located off of Route 33 west of Harrisonburg. The dam was built by the Soil Conservation Service for flood control and water supply, and is now managed by the City of Harrisonburg. An access road is available off of Route 33. Boats, without motors, are permitted but must be carried to the water as no ramp is provided. Fingerling brook trout have been stocked since 1976 and fishing has been permitted since 1979. Angler success has been good with most fish in the 8 to 14-inch range. In addition, occasional large brook trout of 2 to 3 pounds have been taken. No camping is permitted at the lake, but primitive camping is available in the National Forest nearby.

Trophy Trout Lakes

Regulations on the following two-story reservoirs were changed in 1995 to reflect the potential of these lakes to produce trophy-sized trout. The creel limit on these reservoirs was reduced to two trout per day with a minimum size limit of 16 inches. These changes have resulted in the availability of many more large trout.

John W. Flannagan Reservoir (Dickenson County)

This 1143-acre Army Corps of Engineers reservoir is located in the Cumberland Mountains near the Virginia-Kentucky state line. Nearly 50 miles of rugged shoreline terrain surround the lake perimeter. The maximum lake depth is 166 feet with an average depth of 59 feet. Beginning in October of each year, the lake level is dropped 16 feet below the normal summer pool. These conditions remain throughout the winter months until early spring.

The lake was managed primarily as a put-n-take fishery for rainbow trout from 1966 to 1976. In 1991, stocking resumed to establish the lake as a trophy fishery. Sub-catchable McConaughy rainbow and Crawford brown trout are now stocked yearly and trout in excess of four pounds have been collected.

Any good shad imitation fished below 35 feet should entice these trout to hit. In the spring, early summer and late fall, trout should be found throughout the entire lake. However, after August 1, fishing the main body of the lake from the junction boat ramp to the dam is recommended.

Several launch ramps exist and boat access areas are provided at the spillway, lower Twin Area, junction area and both the Cranesnest and Pound River areas. Campgrounds are also available. Contact the U.S. Corps of Engineers, John W. Flannagan Dam and Reservoir, Route 1, Box 268, Haysi, VA 24256-9736.

Lake Moomaw (Alleghany/Bath Counties)

This flood control reservoir was completed in 1981 with the closing of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River. It resulted in the formation of a 13-mile long, 2530-acre reservoir with more than 43 miles of shoreline.

Much of the shoreline is adjacent to the 13,428-acre Gathright Wildlife Management Area which is owned and managed by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The average depth of the lake is 80 feet and flow augmentation results in a normal 5 to 15-foot drawdown by late summer.

Trout management at the reservoir consists of stocking subcatchable brown trout and McConaughy strain of rainbow trout.

Brown trout fishing has been good in recent years with large numbers of trout over 5 pounds reported caught in 1997. McConaughy strain

rainbow trout are doing very well, also. Most trout are caught by trolling with shad imitation crankbaits, some are caught still fishing with live shad 25 feet down and others by jump fishing. Some are caught incidental to bass fishing.

The area around Moomaw provides nearly year-round opportunities for boating water sports, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, birding, sight-seeing, photography, and hunting.

Boats are restricted to a maximum length of 25 feet. No house boats are allowed and excessive noise is prohibited. Trailer-launched boats must be launched at ramps at Fortney Branch, Bolar Flat, or Coles Point. Canoes and cartops can be launched at Coles Mountain Fishing Access, McClintock Bridge, McClintock Point, and Midway.

The lake is open 24 hours a day, year-round. There is a 12-inch size limit on bass. Neither a trout license or National Forest stamp is required.

The Bolar Mountain Recreation Area provides camping, swimming beaches, restrooms and picnic grounds. Bolar Flat has a picnic area, a four-lane boat dock, a courtesy dock, a marina, and restrooms. There are primitive camping areas at Greenwood and McClintock Point. The Morris Hill Campground and picnic area, the four-lane Fortney Branch ramp and courtesy dock, and the Coles Mountain Area are located on the south end of the lake in Alleghany County. A daily fee is charged for swimming, picnicking, camping, and use of boat ramps.

For facilities information, contact the James River Ranger District in Covington (540) 962-2214; the Warm Springs Ranger District in Hot Springs (540) 839-2521 or 839-2442; or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Covington (540) 962-1138.

Philpott Reservoir (Henry County)

Philpott Lake is a 2880-acre reservoir located west of Martinsville. Warmwater fishing is the major attraction, but trout are also stocked annually. Stockings generally consist of 8 to 9-inch McConaughy rainbow trout released in the fall of the year. Fishing success has been highly variable, probably due to the varying volume of the summer coldwater habitat available. Trout can be caught throughout the lake during spring, fall, and winter, but during summer months, most successful fishermen fish deep at night. Philpott generally produces some of the larger rainbow trout taken each year, with catches up to 7 to 8 pounds.

Special Regulations

Jackson River Tailwater (Alleghany County)

The Jackson River below Gathright Dam provides almost 19 miles of high quality trout fishing on a large river. The river is legally navigable and is easily floated by canoe. Six access points are available for public use, located at about three mile intervals. Several landowners along the upper portion of this section of river have legally established exclusive private rights to the fishery on their properties. Many other landowners have used that legal decision to also post their sections of river. Because of the proliferation of posting and legal challenges by riparian landowners, the Department has discontinued its stocking program until such time that legal questions are resolved or the landowners allow public fishing.

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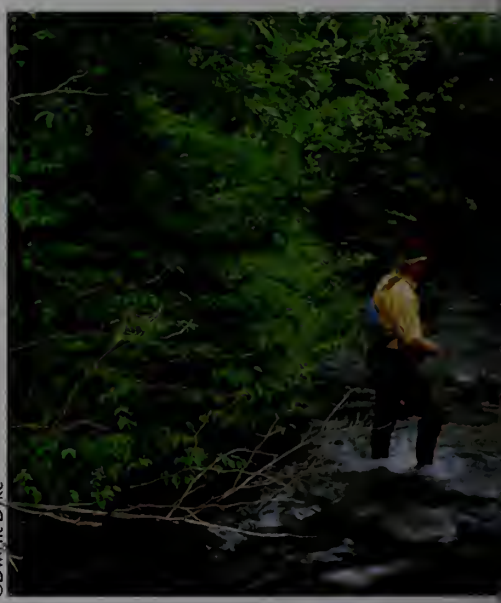
Regulations on this section of river were changed again this year. The requirements to use only single hooked artificial lures and to release all trout caught have both been dropped. Current regulations allow the use of bait and creeling of four trout per day over 12 inches in length. Fishing on this portion of the Jackson River should remain very good for another year or two but without additional stocking, the trout population will begin to decline significantly after that time period.



©Dwight Dyke

In the following streams, special regulations require the use of single hook artificial lures and restrict creel to fish over 12 inches in length. Trout from 6 to 8-inches are stocked periodically and allowed to grow for a year or two before being creeled. This approach can be used in streams that maintain good flow, cool summer waters and are productive enough for good growth of trout.

Smith Creek (Alleghany County)

The special regulation section extends from the Forest Service boundary above the old C & O Dam upstream 2.5 miles to the Clifton Forge Dam. Within this section, subcatchable brown trout are stocked once annually. The stream contains good numbers of 8 to 12-inch brown trout with occasional fish to 20 inches. The stream maintains good flow

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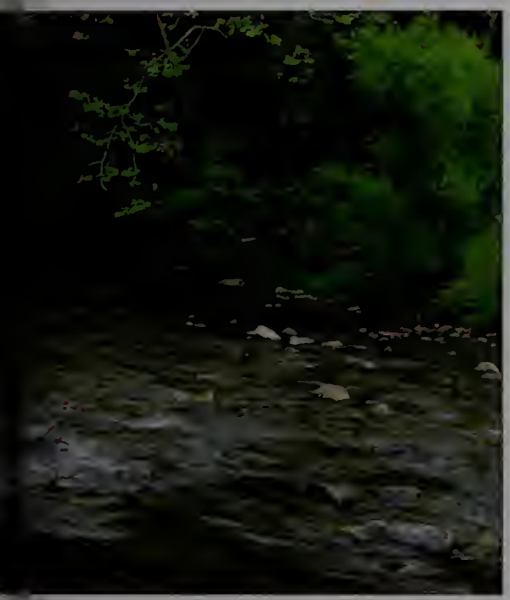


In recent years fly-fishing for trout has grown by leaps and bounds in popularity, not only in Virginia but throughout the U.S.

throughout the year and provides wide, flat pools and good fly-fishing opportunities. The best way to access this stream is by Route 606 from Clifton Forge to the access road for the Clifton Forge Water Plant. Fishermen must park at the entrance and walk a half mile to the stream.

Snake Creek (Carroll County)

Special regulations apply to all of Big Snake Creek below Hull Ford and all of Little Snake Creek below the junction of Routes 922 and 674. The stream is located just north of Fancy Gap. Snake Creek is a moderate gradient, softwater, gravel bottomed stream with an average width of about 18 feet. Holdover of stocked fish is good along with a fair population of native brook trout.

Trophy Trout Streams

In the following streams, regulations restrict fishing to the use of single hook artificial lures and the creel to two fish per day over 16 inches (except for Mossy Creek where the creel is one fish per day over 20 inches). Mossy Creek, Sinking Creek, and Smith Creek, furthermore, are restricted to fly-fishing only. The management approach is to stock fingerling trout (5-6") in high quality streams where they will grow exceptionally fast.

Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County)

The special regulation area includes that section of stream from the confluence of Colliers Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Forks of Buffalo Creek. The stream flows through private land and requires a written landowner permit to fish, which is available from the VDGIF office in Verona *(please include a self-addressed stamped envelope)*. Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually as subcatchables and good numbers of 10 to 16-inch fish are available. Trophy fish of 5 to 8-pounds have been caught in the stream. Buffalo Creek can be reached by taking Route 251 from Lexington.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The special regulation section is located within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project in what is known as the "Grand Canyon" of Virginia. The terrain is quite rugged and the scenery is spectacular. The section contains approximately six miles of stream and extends from Talbott Dam downstream to the confluence with Townes Reservoir. The fishery is maintained by natural reproduction and consists primarily of rainbow trout in the 8 to 12-inch size range and brown trout in the 8 to 18-inch size range. The upper reaches of the special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from the Meadows of Dan. Turn right on Route 601 and proceed to Talbott Dam. The lower reach of the section can only be accessed by boat at the upper end of Townes Reservoir. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge from the City Utilities Department or on site at the Pinnacles Powerhouse. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: 804/788-5270.

Jackson River (Bath County)

The regulations for this section of the Jackson River were changed in 1997. To take advantage of the growth potential of the stream, the size limit for taking trout has been increased to 16 inches and the daily creel reduced to two. This section is stocked several times a year with catchable-sized trout and good populations are always present. The special regulation section extends from the USFS swinging bridge located just above the mouth of Muddy Run, upstream 3 miles to the last ford on FS 481D. This section can only be reached by foot travel, either from the Hidden Valley area or off of Route 623 and FS Road 481. The area provides a remote fishing opportunity on a relatively large, productive stream. A trout license is required to fish.

Mossy Creek (Augusta County)

The special section includes about 4 miles of stream extending upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham County line. The stream is located just off of Route 42 south of Bridgewater. Fishing in Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only and a written landowner permit must be obtained (available from the VDGIF office in Verona. *You must include a self-addressed stamped envelope*). Mossy Creek is a classic, meadow limestone stream averaging about 15 feet in width and flowing through open pastures. Brown trout in the 3 to 7-pound class are available to fishermen.

Sinking Creek (Giles County)

The special area is now restricted to the Giles County section only due to newly posted land in Craig County. The section extends from a cable with VDGIF sign 0.4 miles below the State Route 703 low-water bridge, upstream 1.8 miles to a cable with VDGIF sign (which is 0.1 mile above the Reynolds farm covered bridge). Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually and angling is restricted to fly-fishing only. A fishing permit is required to fish this stream. Permits may be obtained at the VDGIF office in Blacksburg, locally at the Super Value Grocery Store in Newport, and at the Orvis Shop in Roanoke.

Smith Creek (Rockingham County)

The special section includes approximately 1.5 miles of stream near Lacy Spring. Smith Creek flows through private farmland and requires a written landowner permit to fish, which is available from VDGIF office in Verona *(must include a self-addressed stamp envelope)*. Brown trout fingerlings are stocked annually in the fall. Good numbers of 10 to 16-inch trout are available and fish over 4 pounds have been reported.

Smith River (Henry County)

The special area includes the posted section extending 3 miles downstream from Towne Creek near the town of Bassett. Smith River is Virginia's most noted trophy trout stream. The historic state record 18 pound, 11 ounce brown trout was taken in 1979 and numerous trout exceeding 10 pounds have been caught. Smith River is a large, flat, tailwater stream receiving cold-water discharges from Philpott Dam.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

The special regulation section is located south of Marion and west of the community of Sugar Grove off of Route 16. Two miles of the stream, which extends from just below the confluence of Comers Creek upstream, flows through National Forest and private land. Permission is not required prior to fishing within the privately owned sections. Recently included in Virginia's special trout stream regulations, the South Fork offers the opportunity to fish for both trophy rainbow and brown trout. An abundance of 10 to 14-inch trout and some trout in excess of the 16-inch minimum size limit are available.

License Requirements

All residents 16 years of age and older are required to possess a *state fishing license* to fish for trout. Persons who fish in designated stocked waters (those waters listed in the *Trout Stocking Plan*) must have an additional *trout license*. A *National Forest Stamp* is necessary when fishing in most waters within the George Washington or Jefferson National Forests. Refer to your fishing regulation pamphlet for specific exemptions and costs of licenses.

When fishing in non-designated trout waters, such as wild trout streams or special regulations areas (not listed in the Trout Stocking Plan), the angler only needs a *state fishing license*. However, some of the special regulation areas require a *signed permit card* which can be obtained at no cost from certain VDGIF offices and streamside landowners (refer to individual stream descriptions in this guide for details).

Out-of-state anglers who fish designated stocked waters need to purchase both a *non-resident state fishing license* (five-day, non-resident licenses are available), a *non-resident trout license*, and a *National Forest Stamp* (where appropriate.) For fishing in wild trout or most special regulation waters, the non-resident needs only a *non-resident state fishing license*, the appropriate *National Forest Stamp* and *special regulation permits*.

Note: The trout license is only required from October 1 through June 15. From June 16 through September 30 anglers can fish in stocked trout waters without a trout license.

Fee-fishing areas require a *state fishing license* and a *daily fishing permit* that can be obtained on site.

Senior citizens holding previously issued (but no longer available) $5 *senior lifetime fishing licenses* do not need to purchase any additional fishing or trout licenses. Plus, Virginia residents 65 years or older do not need to purchase a *National Forest Stamp*.

Please consult the regulation pamphlet available where you purchased your license for specific restrictions on size, creel, gear restrictions, and season lengths.

More Questions About Trout Fishing?

Call or write to your closest VDGIF office:

Richmond
4010 West Broad St.
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
804/367-1000/VTDD

Verona
P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
540/248-9360

Vinton
209 East Cleveland Avenue
Vinton, VA 24179
540/857-7704

Blacksburg
2001 South Main Street
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540/951-7923

Lynchburg
910 Thomas Jefferson Rd.
Forest, VA 24551-9223
804/525-7522

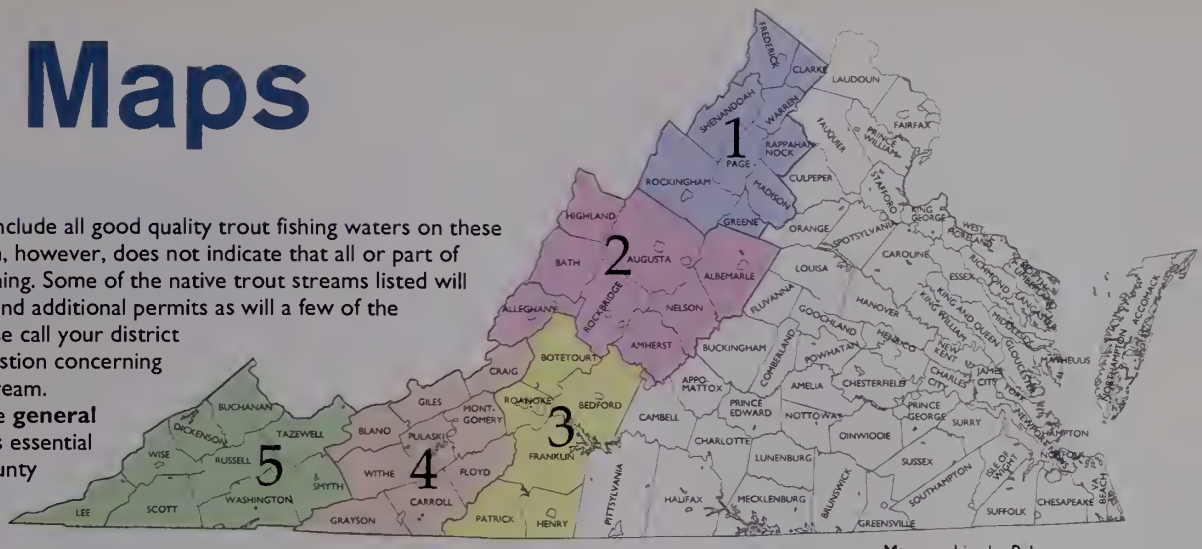
Marion
Rt. 1, Box 107
Marion, VA 24354
540/783-4860

Area Maps

Caution:

We have made an effort to include all good quality trout fishing waters on these area maps. Inclusion of a stream, however, does not indicate that all or part of the stream is open to public fishing. Some of the native trout streams listed will require landowner permission and additional permits as will a few of the special regulation streams. Please call your district fisheries office if you have a question concerning private vs. public fishing on a stream.

In addition, we have given the **general** location of each stream, but it is essential to obtain a topographical or county map to pinpoint specific locations before you start your fishing trip.

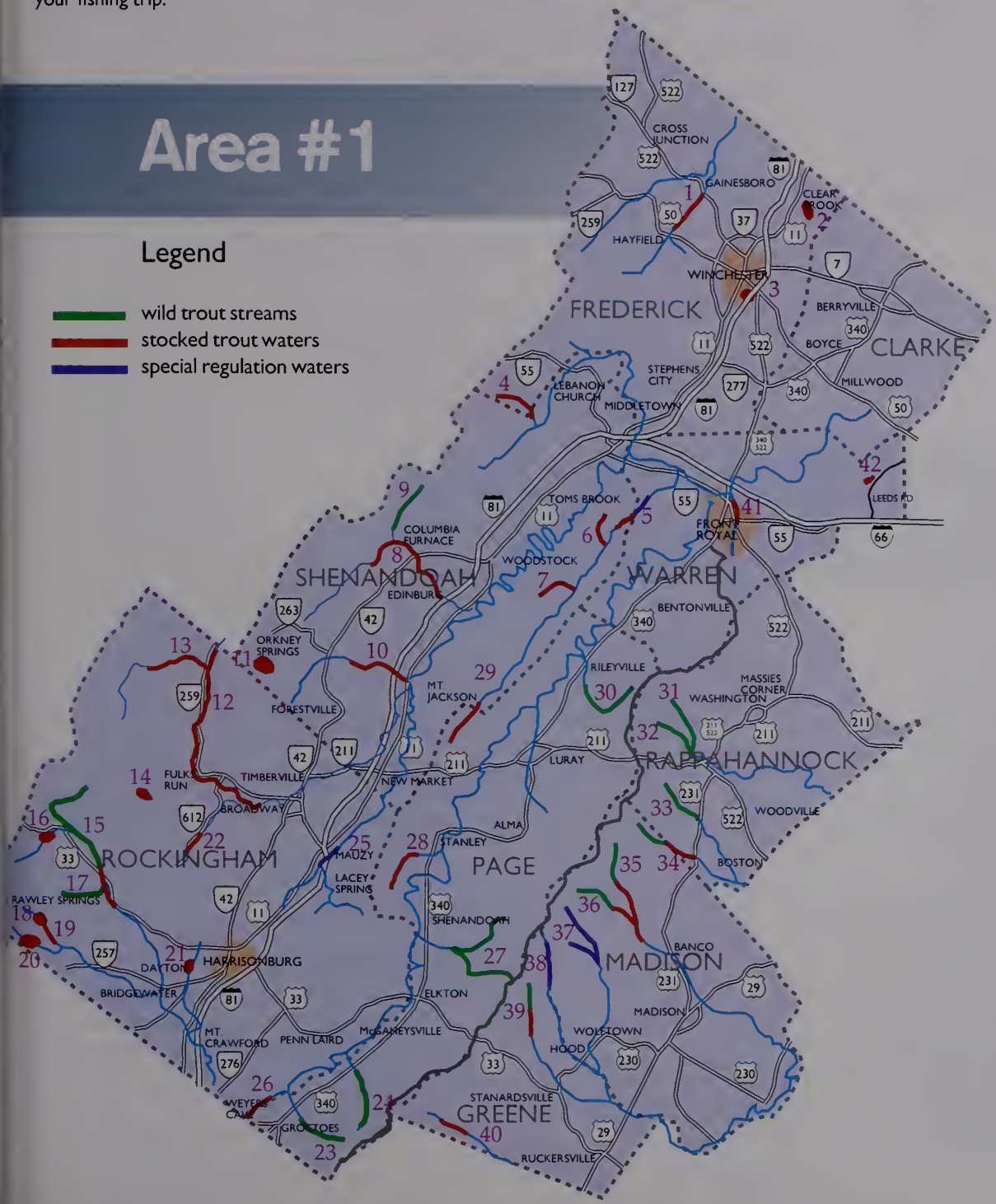


Map graphics by Pels

Area #1

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters



Frederick County
(1) Hogue Creek
(2) Clearbrook Lake
(3) Winchester Lake
(4) Paddy Run

Shenandoah County
(5) Passage Creek
(6) Little Passage Creek
(7) Peters Mill Creek
(8) Stony Creek
(9) Little Stony Creek
(10) Mill Creek
(11) Tomahawk Pond

Rockingham County
(12) N. Fk. Shenandoah River
(13) German River
(14) Slate Lick Lake
(15) Dry River
(16) Switzer Lake
(17) Blacks Run
(18) Hone Quarry Lake
(19) Hone Quarry Run
(20) Briery Branch Lake
(21) Silver Lake
(22) Shoemaker River
(23) Madison Run (SNP)
(24) Big Run (SNP)
(25) Smith Creek
(26) South River (Grottoes)

Page County
(27) Naked Creek (SNP)
(28) Cub Run
(29) Upper Passage Creek
(30) Jeremys Run (SNP)

Rappahannock County
(31) Piney River (SNP)
(32) N. Fk. Thornton River (SNP)
(33) Hazel River (SNP)

Madison County
(34) Hughes Rivers (SNP)
(35) Robinson River (SNP)
(36) Rose River (SNP)
(37) Rapidan River (SNP)

Greene County
(38) Conway River
(39) South River
(40) Lynch River

Warren County
(41) Happy Creek

Fauquier County
(42) Thompson WMA Pond

Area #2

Augusta County
(1) North River (Upper)
(2) Elkhorn Lake
(3) Hearthstone Lake
(4) North River (gorge)
(5) North River (Natural Chiminey)
(6) Mossy Creek
(7) Ramseys Draft
(8) Braley Pond
(9) Falls Hollow
(10) Meadow Run (SNP)
(11) Paine Run (SNP)
(12) South River
(13) Back Creek
(14) Lower Sherando Lake
(15) Upper Sherando Lake
(16) Mills Creek Reservoir/Mills Creek
(17) Coles Run Reservoir
(18) St. Marys River

Albemarle County
(19) N. Fk. Moormans River (SNP)
(20) Doyles River (SNP)
(21) Sugar Hollow Reservoir
(22) S. Fk. Moormans River

Allegheny County
(23) Shawvers Run
(24) Jerrys Run
(25) Pounding Mill Creek
(26) Smith Creek
(27) Clifton Forge Reservoir
(28) Smith Creek
(29) Simpson Creek
(30) Jackson River tailwater

Bath County
(31) Douthat Lake
(32) Wilson Creek
(33) Pads Creek
(34) Cascades Creek
(35) Lake Moomaw
(36) Back Creek
(37) Little Back Creek
(38) Back Creek
(39) Jackson River
(40) Muddy Run
(41) Jordan Run
(42) Mares Run
(43) Spring Run
(44) Bullpasture River

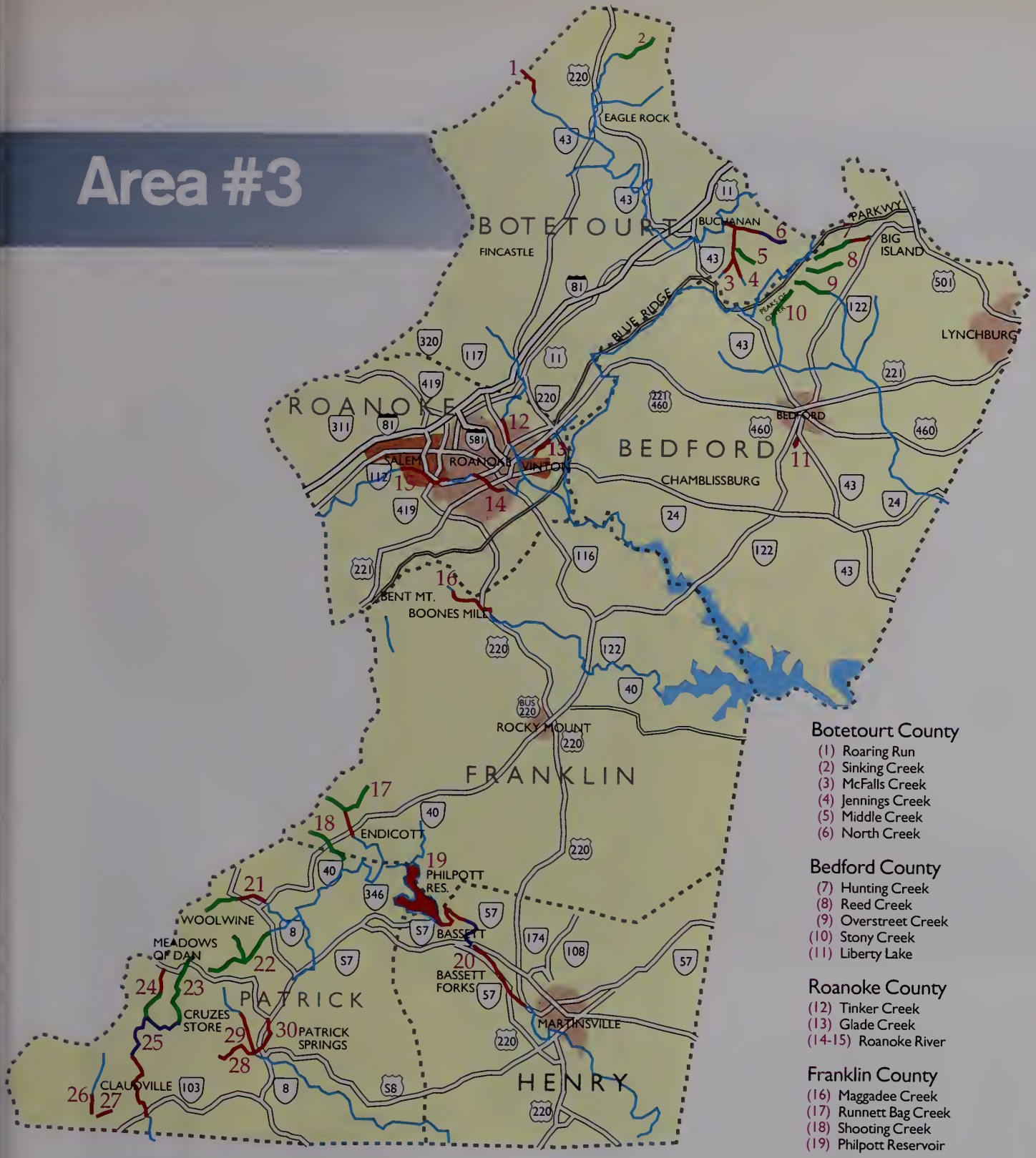
Highland County
(44) Bullpasture River
(45) Benson Run
(46) S. Br. Potomac River
(47) Laurel Fork

Amherst County
(48) Little Irish Creek
(49) Pedlar River
(50) Davis Mill Creek
(51) N. Fk. Buffalo River
(52) Little Piney River
(53) S. Fk. Piney River
(54) N. Fk. Piney River
(55) Rocky Row Run

Nelson County
(56) Shoe Creek
(57) S. Fk. Tye River
(58) N. Fk. Tye River
(59) Tye River
(60) South Rockfish River

Rockbridge County
(61) S. Fk. Buffalo Creek
(62) Buffalo Creek
(63) Lexington Reservoir
(64) Mill Creek
(65) Guys Run
(66) Maury River
(67) South River
(68) Irish Creek
(69) Big Marys Creek

Area #3



Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters

Botetourt County
(1) Roaring Run
(2) Sinking Creek
(3) McFalls Creek
(4) Jennings Creek
(5) Middle Creek
(6) North Creek

Bedford County
(7) Hunting Creek
(8) Reed Creek
(9) Overstreet Creek
(10) Stony Creek
(11) Liberty Lake

Roanoke County
(12) Tinker Creek
(13) Glade Creek
(14-15) Roanoke River

Franklin County
(16) Maggadee Creek
(17) Runnett Bag Creek
(18) Shooting Creek
(19) Philpott Reservoir

Henry County
(20) Smith River

Patrick County
(21) Rock Castle Creek
(22) Smith River
(23) Dan River
(24) Round Meadow Creek
(25) Dan River
(26) Ararat River
(27) Clarks Creek
(28) South Mayo River
(29) Poorhouse Creek
(30) N. Fk. South Mayo River

Area #4

Craig County
(1) Potts Creek
(2) N. Fk. Barbours Creek/ Barbours Creek
(3) Meadow Creek
(4) Sinking Creek

Giles County
(5) Big Stoney Creek
(6) Little Stoney Creek
(7) Johns Creek
(8) Mill Creek
(9) Dismal Creek

Montgomery County
(10) Craig Creek
(11) Poverty Creek
(12) Toms Creek
(13) S. Fk. Roanoke River

Floyd County
(14) Goose Creek
(15) Little River
(16) W. Fk. Little River
(17) Howell Creek
(18) Rush Fork
(19) Mira Fork
(20) Little Indian Creek
(21) Burkes Fork
(22) Laurel Fork

Carroll County
(22) Laurel Fork
(23) Big Reed Island Creek
(24) Snake Creek
(25) Elk Spur Branch
(26) Lovills Creek
(27) Stewarts Creek
(28) Crooked Creek
(29) Little Reed Island Creek

Pulaski County
(30) Peak Creek

Bland County
(31) Laurel Fork Creek
(32) Wolf Creek
(33) Lick Creek

Wythe County
(34) W. Fk. Reed Creek
(35) Guillon Fork/ Guillon Fork Ponds
(36) Stoney Creek
(37) Dry Run
(38) Cripple Creek

Grayson County
(39) Hales Lakes
(40) Elk Creek
(41) Middle Fox Creek
(42) Fox Creek
(43) Big Wilson Creek
(44) Helton Creek
(45) Chestnut Creek

Area #5

Dickenson County
(1) Russell Fork River
(2) Pound River
(3) Flanagan Reservoir
(4) Cranesnest River
(5) Frying Pan Creek

Buchanan County
(6) Russell Fork River
(7) Dismal River

Wise County
(8) Middle Fork Powell River
(10) Clear Creek
(11) Pound River and N. Fk.

Lee County
(12) N. Fk. Powell River
(13) Martins Creek

Scott County
(14) Stock Creek
(15) Straight Fork
(16) Big Stony Creek
(17) Bark Camp Lake
(18) Little Stony Creek

Russell County
(19) Big Cedar Creek
(20) Laurel Bed Lake

Washington County
(21) Big Brumley Creek
(22) Big Tumbling Creek
(23) Whitetop Laurel
(24) Straight Branch
(25) Beartree Lake
(26) Tennessee Laurel
(27) Valley Creek
(28) Green Cove Creek

Tazewell County
(29) Little Tumbling Creek
(30) Laurel Creek
(31) Roaring Fork
(32) Maiden Spring Creek
(33) Lake Witten
(34) Lincolnshire Lake
(35) Cove Creek

Smyth County
(36) Middle Fk. Holston River (Upper)
(37) Middle Fk. Holston River (Marion)
(38) Staley Creek
(39) Cressy Creek
(40) Dickey Creek
(41) Comers Creek
(42) Hurricane Creek
(43) S. Fk. Holston River
(44) Little Laurel Creek

VIRGINIA
Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

Journal

New Hatchery at Brookneal

Rich Jefferson

A ground breaking was held on Nov. 6, 1997, for a new hatchery at Brookneal, Virginia. In recognition of the support the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has received over the years from Del. Victor Thomas of Roanoke, the new hatchery will be named the Vic Thomas Striped Bass Hatchery. The old hatchery was overwhelmed in the 1995 flood. From the left: Steve Arthur, hatchery supervisor; Gary Martel, fisheries chief; Del. Ted Bennett; William L. Woodfin, Jr., director of the VDGIF; Charles McDaniel, chairman of the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries; Del. Vic Thomas and Vaughn Douglass of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Reviews

Hunters for the Hungry
Venison Cookbook

The concept was simple, ask hunters to donate deer, raise funds to have the meat professionally processed, provide the meat to food banks and charities, and feed the less fortunate in Virginia. Since its conception in 1991 Hunters for the Hungry has been responsible for bringing hunters, nonhunters, businesses, civic groups, clubs and churches together for one common goal, eliminate hunger in Virginia.

As most hunters will tell you there is no finer meal to lay forth upon ones table than that of wild game, and venison is no exception. Low in fat and high in protein, it has always been a favorite of those who are fortunate to harvest such a magnificent prize. Because of its nutritional value and wonderful taste, venison is becoming a highly sought after delicacy, and can be found in some of the most trendy of restaurants. With its popularity soaring, so has the demand for ways to prepare it. So who better to print a cookbook on venison, than Hunters for the Hungry, along with a host of famous Virginians, who share their favorite recipes. Described as more than "just another cookbook" this publication is a wealth of information. The only hard part about reading this book was trying to decide where to leave it. With 88 recipes from the preparation of jerky, roast, steaks, chops, stews, soups, chili and sauces, the kitchen seemed appropriate. But then I became enamored with the chapter on facts about the white-tailed deer, "a 100 pound adult deer eats an average of 4 to 6 pounds of food daily." With that kind of information, well, maybe I should leave it out in my living room on the coffee table for everyone to enjoy. Then I found myself curled up in my favorite chair next to a warm fire and in the comfort of my den learning more about some of the 19 different outdoor organizations here in Virginia and trying to decide which one to join. If this sounds like a lot of information to put into one book, let alone a cookbook, well it is and that's what makes it a must for the weekend chef or armchair sportsman.

The Hunters for the Hungry Venison Cookbook, can be ordered by sending $7.50 to: Hunters for the Hungry, P.O. Box 304, Big Island, VA 24526 or call: 1-800-352-4868. □

The Comfortable Shooter with Henry Baskerville, Volume I
63 minutes
Produced by Reel Resources, Inc.,
1600 Prince St., Suite 103
Alexandria, VA 22314
1-800-661-5920

Here it is, another Christmas has come and gone, and having been especially good all year long, you were rewarded with a brand new shotgun. Hopefully for many of you, your Christmas wish was fulfilled in just this manner. Whether you are a first time shooter or a seasoned marksman, there is now a new video out that will help you become a better shooter. From Henry Baskerville, who is considered by many to be a world-class shotgun instructor comes the video, *The Comfortable Shooter with Henry Baskerville, Volume 1*. In this 60 minute video, Henry achieves what countless instructors have tried but failed to do in other videos: he actually teaches television viewers how to become a better shot.

"Keep it simple and have fun" is

Henry's motto, learned after over 20 years of running an international guiding service out of Richmond and teaching thousands of students the art of wingshooting, including world and state champions. In this video, Henry leads the student through the fundamentals of wingshooting, beginning with the importance of eye dominance, then moving to gun fit, stance, proper equipment, form, and the key concept of concentration.

Sounds like you've heard it all before? Well, you haven't. At least not this way. Each fundamental in the video is covered thoroughly with good humor and detailed instruction aimed at helping the viewer perfect the technique with practice at home and on the range. "All too often I have watched videos on shooting instruction that keep the viewer on the sidelines while a teacher mumbles to the student. I want to change all that with this video," says Henry. With the help of beginning shooter Shari Thwing, master wingshooter Ed Wingfield, and Henry's own proficient wingshooting son, Henry Baskerville does just that—and more.

The Comfortable Shooter with Henry Baskerville, Volume I has been carefully designed to help the audience become more comfortable with the shotgun and shooting fundamentals. It takes the mystery out of the sport, making it clear that a good shot is made, not born. It is a video which should entice new shooters, especially women, to try the sport with confidence. Plus, it also provides veteran shooters with a refresher course on the fundamentals essential to mastering the more difficult shots of wingshooting.

The bottom line is that Henry is a gifted shotgun instructor with the ability to produce results in his students, something he was forced to do when he first began organizing hunting safaris around the globe. Too often faced with clients who were poor to mediocre shots, Henry couldn't afford to have them spend thousands of dollars only to return empty handed and discouraged. Out of necessity, Henry learned how to teach them to shoot. And teach them he did.

Today, Henry's special brand of teaching has caught on. Even the VDGIF's Hunter Education program has been so impressed with his instructional techniques that his teaching methods have been adopted as a blueprint for statewide shotgun instruction.

So, if you want to start the new year off right, and really show your friends just how good that new shotgun shoots, then pick up a copy of *The Comfortable Shooter*, you'll be glad you did. □

Bassarama Date Correction

In our December 1997 issue of the magazine, the dates for the Bassarama printed on page 23 were incorrect. The correct dates should be January 23-25, 1998 at the Virginia State Fairgrounds. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. □

Dwight Dyke

The Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries'

Virginia Women in the Outdoors Program presents

"Becoming An Outdoors-Woman" Workshop

An introductory workshop where you can learn a variety of outdoor skills and become acquainted with hunting, fishing, and other outdoor pursuits.

Session topics include: firearms training, fishing, boating, map & compass, hunting, archery, camping, outdoor photography, forest ecology, wilderness survival, dutch oven cooking and more.

May 15-17, 1998

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center
near Appomattox, Virginia

Preregistration is required
Workshop space is Limited

Contact Libby Norris, VDGIF (757) 253-7072

This workshop is for you if...

- ◆ You are a beginner who wants to improve your skills
- ◆ You would like to try some new outdoor activities
- ◆ You are looking for the camaraderie of like-minded individuals
- ◆ You are searching for fun and adventure in a non-threatening atmosphere

Recipes

By Joan Cone

Winter Trout Fillets

If you succeed in catching trout this winter, you will enjoy preparing and eating their fillets. For those who cannot fish, many markets sell farm-raised trout which are superb. These trout growers also supply fresh trout to restaurants.

Recently I visited the Cherokee Trout Farms in Cherokee, North Carolina. Here they are feeding a special diet to their rainbow trout which produces pink meat. Upon trying their fillets in a local restaurant, I found them to be most delicious. Afterwards I purchased ten pounds of these rainbow trout fillets at the Cherokee farm. Each fillet was put into a plastic film sleeve, and then all were placed in a large, flat plastic container which was kept super-chilled (just above freezing) in a cooler of ice mixed with salt until I arrived home. This container then went immediately into the freezer where I can now remove as many fillets as needed for a meal.

Menu

Trout Fillets With Artichoke Sauce
Tomato Rice Pilaf
Cantonese Vegetables
Easy Grapefruit Chiffon Pie

Trout Fillets with Artichoke Sauce

8 rainbow trout fillets
½ cup butter or margarine
4 tablespoons green onion, chopped
2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 can (8 ounces) sliced mushrooms, drained
1 can (14 ounces) artichoke hearts, sliced and drained
Salt to taste
Cayenne pepper to taste

Pat rainbow trout fillets dry with a paper towel and place in a flat baking dish. Melt butter in a saucepan and saute the green onions and parsley until tender. Add lemon juice, mushrooms, artichoke hearts, salt and pepper. Cook for a few minutes until heated thoroughly. Pour sauce over the fillets and bake in a 325° oven for about 20 minutes, or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Allow two fillets per person.

Tomato Rice Pilaf

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
½ cup chopped onion
½ cup chopped celery
1 ½ cups water
1 can (15 ounces) Hunt's Ready Tomato Sauces Chunky Special
1 cup long grain rice
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon sugar
⅛ teaspoon pepper

In medium saucepan, in hot oil, saute onion and celery until tender. Stir in remaining ingredients. Simmer, covered, 25 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes or until all liquid is absorbed. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Cantonese Vegetables

3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 package (10 ounces) frozen peas partially thawed
3 carrots, thinly sliced
1 green pepper, cut in strips
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
½ teaspoon sugar
¼ teaspoon salt

Heat oil in large skillet. Add vegetables; cook and stir 5 to 10 minutes or until crisp-tender. Stir in Worcestershire sauce, sugar and salt. Heat 3 to 4 minutes.

Easy Grapefruit Chiffon Pie

Graham Cracker Crust:

1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs
¼ cup sugar
⅓ cup butter or margarine, melted

Thoroughly combine all ingredients. Press firmly onto bottom and sides of a 9-inch pie plate. Bake at 400° for 5 minutes; chill.

Grapefruit Chiffon Filling:

1 package (3 ounces) peach or raspberry-flavored gelatin
1 cup boiling water
½ cup cold water
1 carton (4 ½ ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
2 grapefruit, peeled, sectioned
1 tablespoon fresh grated grapefruit peel

In large bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water; stir in cold water. Chill until thick but not set (about 45 minutes). With electric mixer or rotary beater, beat thickened gelatin until foamy (about 2 minutes). Add 1 cup of the whipped topping and continue beating at low speed until thoroughly blended. Reserve 6 grapefruit sections for garnish. Stir remaining grapefruit sections and peel into gelatin mixture. Spoon into Graham Cracker Crust. Chill 1 to 2 hours until firm. Garnish with remaining whipped topping and reserved grapefruit sections. Makes 6 servings. □

JANUARY Afield

For many sportsmen January is the month the deer hunters quit the woods and the hinterlands are returned to upland hunters in pursuit of rabbits, grouse, quail and squirrels. Of course, the waterfowler also lays claim to this month during which he hopes freezing weather and northerly winds will carry flights of ducks into the Old Dominion. January also offers hunters west of Interstate 95 another opportunity to harvest some of the those pesky resident Canada geese.

January is also a favored month among a certain breed of knowledgeable freshwater fishermen who know that it is a prime month for catching big landlocked striped bass, largemouth bass and blue catfish.

But January is a difficult month. Some years, such as last year, it represents a mild and serene countenance that makes it almost as pleasant as April for outdoor pursuits. This is fine for fishing and upland hunting, but terrible for waterfowl hunting. On the other hand, it can come in freezing and blustery as it was in '96 when it coated the boat ramps with ice, blocked the roads with snow and froze up some of the smaller waters. A super year for the waterfowler, but not that great for others.

When I look over my records of Januarys past I see good duck hunting on the larger waters when the smaller ones freeze. I see more ducks pushed into the state by chill northern weather. Yet, I also see some of the largest striped bass of the year taken at Western Branch Lake near Suffolk, some topping 30 pounds. Smith Mountain Lake west of Lynchburg offers more of the same. January is a month when the New River surrenders some of its largest muskies. There was one over 40 pounds taken here on a January day and it is the time when the upper tidal reaches of the James River and the Rappahannock part with blue catfish of heroic proportions.

This is also a fine time to catch crappie. In virtually any water where crappie are found they'll bite at this time of the year. Some hardy souls even brave the freezing nights to catch crappie from Walkers Dam on the Chickahominy River.

January is also a good month for the quail hunter who wants the field to himself and a pair of good bird dogs. He'll probably find the best bird hunting in the southeastern part of the state. Along the Blue Ridge, his counterpart, the grouse hunter will work the mountain coverts in search of birds. While snow could deny the grouse hunter the use of mountain roads, snow will no longer close the quail season, the "No hunting quail in the snow" law having been rescinded.

Freezing weather frequently discourages raccoons and opossums from straying too far, but on those balmy, foggy nights that often occur this month, the night animals are on the move and the hounds are making the hills echo with their music.

This month the full moon, "The Moon After Yule," shines on the 14th and smart goose hunters will generally schedule their hunts to avoid these bright nights when geese may feed and not come to decoys during the day. Many hunters also believe that the full moon is not very good for raccoon hunting as well.

As you can see. January is a month of many moods and it is always interesting to see which face the first month will wear this year.

©Maslowski Photo

Photo TipS

By Lynda Richardson

"Wild and Wonderful" Contest Winners

Congratulations to all of you who entered this year's "Wild and Wonderful Virginia" photography contest! As you may recall from the March 1997 Photo Tips column, where the contest was announced, we listed three categories; 1) "Wonderful Wildlife," 2) "Wild and Wonderful Scenery," and 3) "Enjoying Wild Virginia."

We had 21 people submit 88 photographs taken around the state. There were very few quality entries for "Enjoying Wild Virginia" which surprised us all. We decided to give only one award in that category.

Here are the winners:

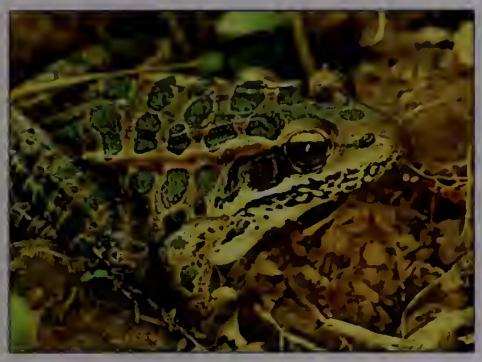
Kathryn M. Collister of Falls Church, Virginia took first prize in the category, "Wonderful Wildlife" with her photograph of a yellow-crowned night heron chomping on a crayfish. What beautiful light! Huntley Meadows in Fairfax County was the location of this wonderful shot and it was taken using a Canon Elan camera and a Canon 100-300 USM lens. Kodachrome 200 was the film of choice.

Second prize goes to Bob Stewart of Glen Allen, Virginia for his great action shot of two young bucks fighting at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park. Look at that water fly! Bob shot this picture using a 300mm lens and Fuji Provia film. Settings were 1/250th at f5.6.

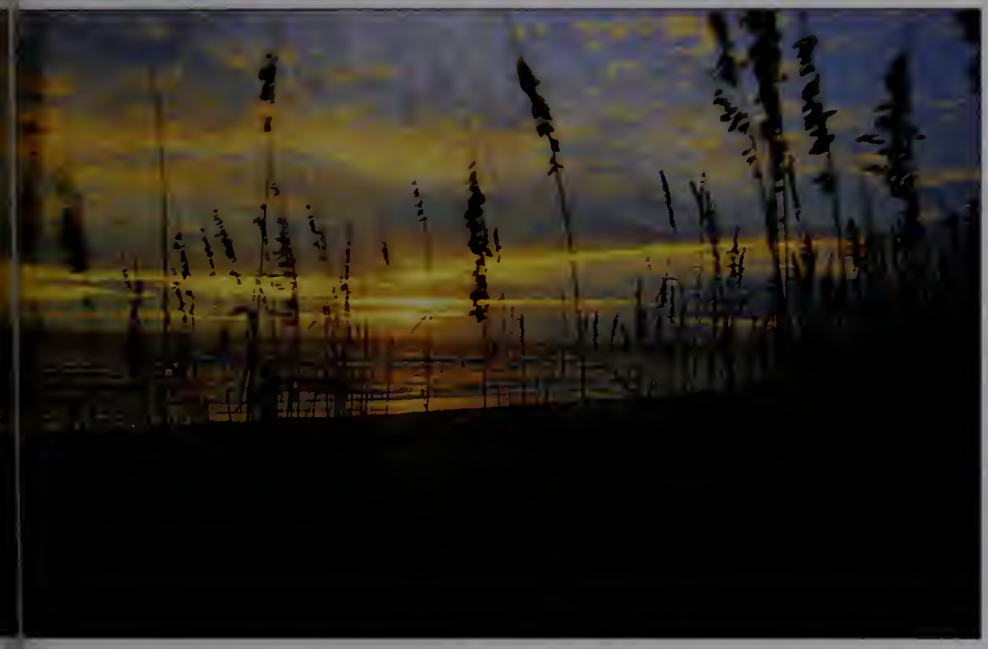
Laurie C. Dove of Goochland, Virginia takes third with her great close up of a pickerel frog which she shot in Goochland County. She used a Minolta 700si camera with a Sigma 70-210 lens set on macro. Using a tripod and a cable release she shot this image at 1/15th at f11.0. In addition, Laurie used a Photoflex silver reflector to fill in the shadows. Good job!

Above: *First place in the category, "Wonderful Wildlife" Kathryn M. Collister of Falls Church, Virginia.*
Right: *Second place to Bob Stewart of Glen Allen, Virginia.*

Bob Stewart took first and second prize in the category, "Wild and Wonderful Scenery." Good grief Bob, way to go! First prize is a dune shore landscape at sunrise photographed at False Cape State park. Bob shot this with a 35mm lens using Fuji Velvia film at 1/30th at f8.0. I love the motion of the grass! Second place was shot at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park using an 80mm lens and Fuji Velvia film. Settings were 1/15th at f16.0. (Did you see those deer the same day?) A polarizer was used on both winners.



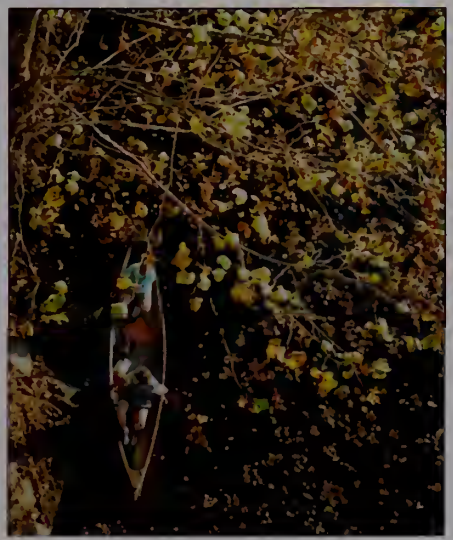
Left: *Third place in the category, "Wonderful Wildlife" Laurie C. Dove of Goochland, Virginia.* ***Below:*** *First place in the category, "Wild and Wonderful Scenery" Bob Stewart of Chesterfield, Virginia.* ***Bottom left:*** *Second place to Bob Stewart of Chesterfield, Virginia.* ***Bottom right:*** *Third place to Peg Childress of Mechanicsville, Virginia.*



Peg Childress of Mechanicsville, Virginia took third place and honorable mention with her delightful scenics. "Woodson's Mill Pond" was photographed last February in Hanover County. Peg shot her winner with a Nikon F4 camera using a 75-300 zoom lens and Fuji Vevia or Sensia film. Her honorable mention, "Old Rag Mountain," was taken near Etlan in April of 1997 using the same lens/camera combination and Fuji Velvia film. Wonderful job Peg!

In the last category, "Enjoying Wild Virginia" we awarded first place to Dorothy Yates of Brookneal, Virginia. She captured an unusual perspective of two canoeists taking out under the James River Bridge. I loved the sycamore tree at the top and the way it blended into the fallen leaves in the water. Wonderful photo Dorothy!

Thanks again to all of those who entered this years contest. If you didn't win this year you'll have another chance to enter. Check out the March issue of *Virginia Wildlife* for details! Happy shooting! □



Top right: *Honorable mention to Peg Childress of Mechanicsville, Virginia.*
Right: *In the category "Enjoying Wild Virginia" first place goes to Dorothy Yates of Brookneal Virginia.*

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Read all about it!

Lifetime Hunting or Fishing Licenses can be the best investment you make in 1998.

If you like to spend time in the outdoors hunting and fishing, Virginia's Resident Lifetime Hunting or Fishing License is a GREAT BUY.

Start off the new year right. Purchase a lifetime license for yourself or someone you love. Only $250.00, with discounts after age 40 ($500.00 non-resident), it's a sure bet that this investment will not only be fun, but it will give you a lifetime of wonderful memories. Make 1998 a year that someone will remember forever. For more information contact:

Diane S. Davis
Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
Permitting Section
4010 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
(804)367-1000

Dwight Dyke

Fish culturists ***(left to right)*** *Chris Hoffman, James Hayes and G. R. Baker.*

Marion Trout Hatchery

The Department of Game & Inland Fisheries has long prided itself on the fine job it does managing the over 2,800 miles of trout streams and rivers in the Commonwealth. But before the first inch of stream receives the 1,250,000 catchable brook, brown or rainbow trout it all begins here at one of Virginia's trout hatcheries.

VIRGINIA
Department of Game & Inland Fisheries